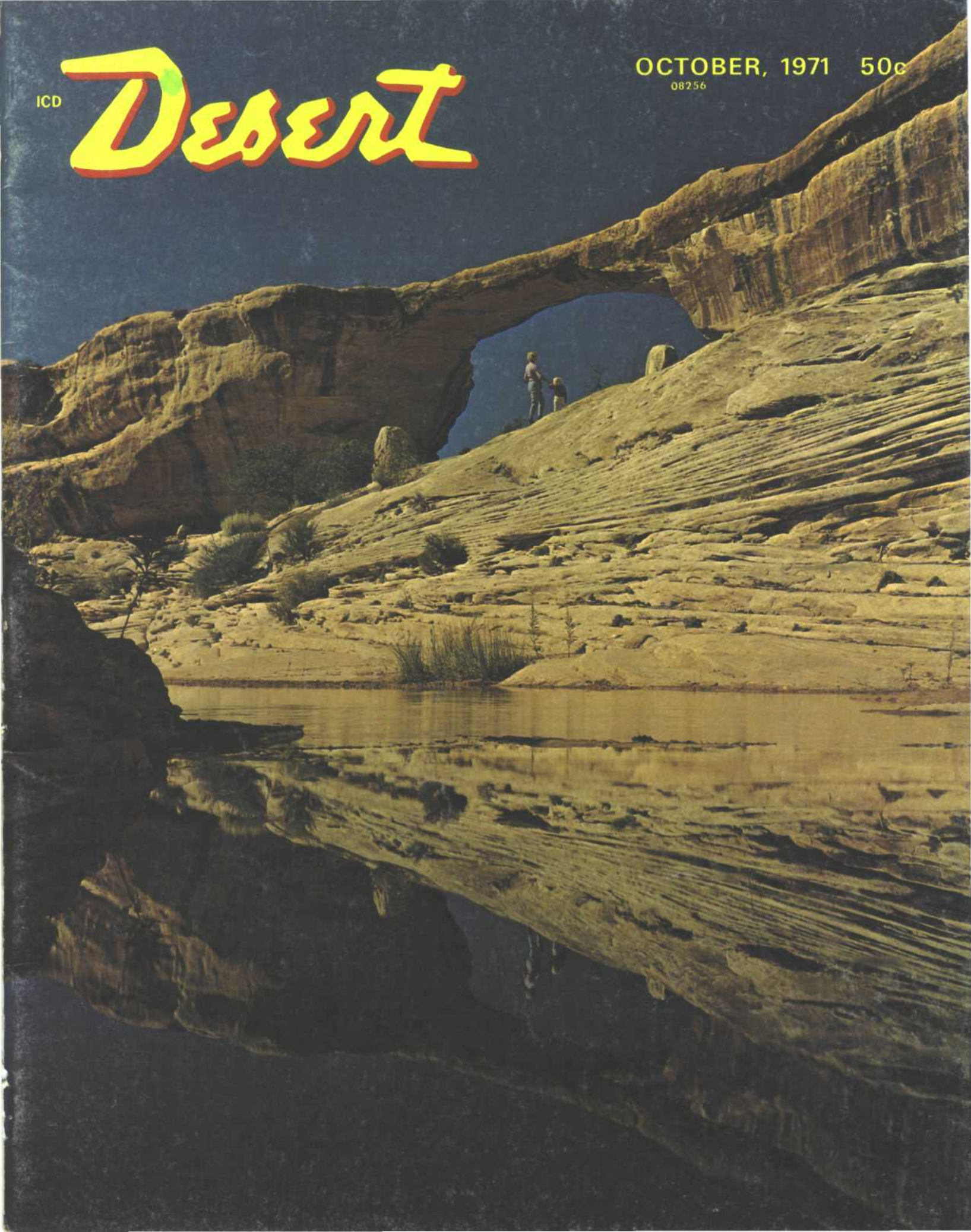


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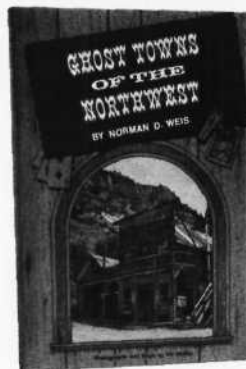
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LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years is available again. Many of these appeared in *DESERT Magazine* years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and one pinpointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$7.50.

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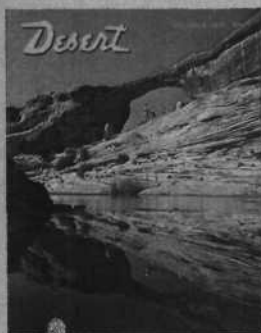
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THE COVER:

The majestic Owachomo Bridge of Utah's Natural Bridges National Monument is reflected in this photo by David Muench, Santa Barbara, California. It is 106 feet high with a span of 180 feet and is one of several such natural wonders in the Monument.

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A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

ACTOR AND motorcycle racer Steve McQueen has a home in Palm Springs, California, and undoubtedly knows and respects the desert. But if he wants to maintain his reputation for honesty, accuracy and not alienate thousands of potential box office fans, he should watch his scriptwriters . . . and his interviews.

An article in a current national sports magazine entitled *Harvey on the Lam* pictures the actor and his friends tearing up the desert with their "dirt bikes" and, unless it was written with a tongue-in-

cheek approach, it is so inaccurate as to be ridiculous.

Copyright laws prevent us from quoting sections of the article verbatim but we are certain his desert fans will not be pleased to read "By any name, Steve McQueen gets all revved up over dirt bikes. Slamming one across the California desert is now his Great Escape."

This prelude to the article probably does not mean McQueen is completely oblivious to desert ecology, but it might give the wrong impression of a subject which today is, to say the least, very touchy.

And the impression will probably be compounded when readers who know the desert read about an opening scene (presumably from a movie script) which places Mount San Jacinto near Palm Springs in the *Mojave Desert* which actually is more than 100 miles north of the resort community.

The script writer also has a Gila Monster peering from behind a boulder as it watches McQueen and his motorcycle-riding friends approach, leaving one with the impression the desert reptile is about the size of a dinosaur. For the edification of eastern readers who are not familiar with desert wildlife, Gila Monsters are seldom seen west of the Colorado River.

The article ends by once again describing another (we hope mythical) scene in which McQueen, his son and friends are racing across the fragile desert across washes and through desert flora before retiring to a Mexican restaurant to celebrate their race with margaritas and frijoles.

We hope these mythical scenes do not give the eastern reader a wrong impression of Steve McQueen and our California deserts. For Steve McQueen is ecology-minded and he does worry about the effect vehicles are having on the desert areas as is pointed out in the main body of the article . . . which gives an excellent insight into McQueen's personality.

We certainly hope the main part of the factual and interesting article is not overshadowed by the impressions conveyed by the two mythical movie scenes.

While on the subject of desert ecology, I want to alert our readers to an article in our next month's issue which will discuss a recently introduced bill in the House of Representatives which would designate the California Desert National Conservation Area.

Introduced by Congressman Bob Mathias of Bakersfield, it is co-sponsored by 27 other California representatives and calls for a \$29 million program to protect the 17-million-acre desert area. Mathias said he introduced the bill because "the overall environment of the California desert is in danger of being destroyed."

The bill and its ramifications will be discussed in the November issue of *DESERT Magazine*. In the meantime, remember to always treat the desert as though it was your own backyard.

William Knappe

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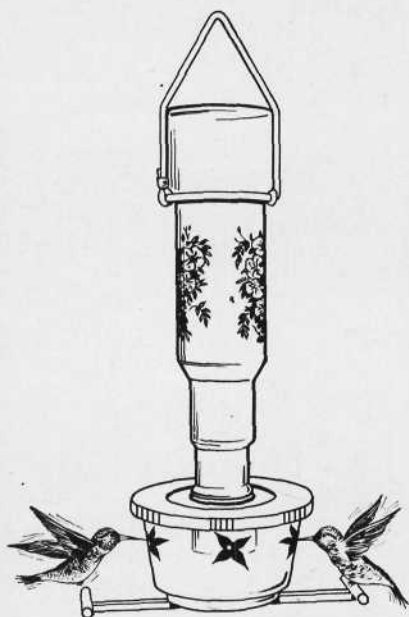
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Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper



EXPLORING
CALIFORNIA'S
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VOLUME IV,
MOUNTAIN
COUNTRY

By
Russ Leadabrand

This is the ninth California guide-book by world traveler and veteran explorer Russ Leadabrand. The previous books cover individual mountain areas, the deserts and the seashores. Like this guide, they are accurate, detailed and provide historical background.

However, in his newest volume in which he takes the reader on trips to the "little" mountains, the author not only provides directions, but also conveys the mystic feeling he has about the mountains, which he started exploring when a youth.

"There are many ways to keep occupied in Cuyamaca Country," he writes. "One of the best is to seek out an old oak, thick-barked and lightning hammered, sit in its shade and let the medicine wind mend your flatland wounds and illnesses."

Passages such as the above make this book one of the most outstanding of the author's series. Some of the areas covered include the San Gabriels, Kern Plateau Country, Greenhorn Country, South San Luis Country, Mattole Country and many other "little" mountain areas.

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CANYONLANDS
By
Kent Frost

The author has the right to use the personal pronoun in the title of his book as he was one of the first and few white men to hike through that vast and spectacular wilderness in southeastern Utah now known as the Canyonlands National Park.

With the exception of two years service in the United States Navy during World War II, Frost has spent more than 40 years exploring the labyrinths, plains, mesas, rivers and mountains of his native land.

While in his early teens, he started hiking into the then little-known areas such as the Needles, the Maze and the Land of Standing Rocks. Later, he was associated with the pioneer river runner, Norman Nevill, and for years took passengers over the rapids of the Colorado River following the trail of the first white explorer, Major John W. Powell, who explored the river in 1869.

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as a national park, Frost was taking his friends into the area by four-wheel-drive and blazing vehicle trails over the paths he once hiked. When more and more people asked to be taken into the wilderness, he formed Canyonland Tours, Inc., which operates today out of Monticello, Utah.

Majority of the Canyonlands area is just as wild and rugged today as it was when originally discovered and can only be visited by 4WD vehicles. Experienced guides such as Kent Frost have brought the spectacular scenery within the reach of everyone.

Frost's book is a fast moving account of his adventures and the people he met during his "growing up days" and his adult years. Although no other white man has explored the country more than Frost, there are still many areas still to be viewed as he describes at the end of his book.

"For the biggest views, the brilliant edges of dark, rolling storm clouds, the continual rainbows, the sunlight reflected on rainbow-hued rock walls, I shall come here. Here, where I can stand in silent air under a starry sky watching the lightning show of a storm that's so far away the thunder never reaches me.

"I shall always be able to find some empty corner where I can quietly observe the brilliance of the stars at night, smell the perfume of the sage, cedar and

pine in the air or in my fire, and observe the lives of all the birds, animals and insects interweaving around me."

Hardcover, artist illustrations, 160 pages, \$6.95.



MAMMOTH LAKES MEMORIES
By
Adele Reed

This is a well-written and entertaining book on the Mammoth Lakes area in the northern part of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains by a veteran free lance writer and long-time resident of the area.

Illustrated with historic photographs, the book has hundreds of anecdotes about the early day pioneers of the once flourishing mining area which today receives its wealth from winter and summer visitors.

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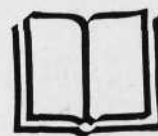
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(Above) The Zaca silver mine of the 1870s along Monitor Pass. (Below) A water-filled tunnel entrance near the historic mining city of Loope.



ALPINE COUNTY, southeast of Lake Tahoe, is California's Sierra Nevada's prime anachronism, a place out of time, a portal to this state's oldest and roughest mining history.

Snowbound and practically isolated seven months a year, then temperate and coolingly green during the summer, Alpine County has simultaneously lured and repelled the more adventurous.

Local Washoe Indians, eking out a semi-nomadic life through seasonal gathering, migrating and camping, were unmarred by the presence of white men until well after 1840. The often-cited travels of Jedediah Smith (1827) and John Fremont (1843) through what was then the Territory of Utah brought explorers into this region of paradoxes.

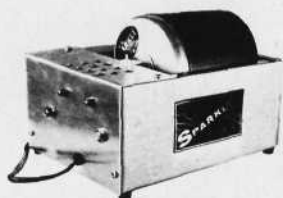
The 1848-49 gold finds along the westerly river slopes of the Sierras showed an immediate need for a penetrable land route east across the mountains. Kit Carson and later trailbreakers traversed Alpine County along numerous high-peaked ravines, establishing the four major passes in use today: Carson, Luther, Ebbetts and Monitor.

But publications detailing Sierra Nevada adventures are common, and it is my intention to describe some historical sites of Alpine County as you find them today. I was fortunate to spend some time with Artie Brown, State of California Fish and Game Warden for this area and current President of the Alpine County Historical Society. Mr. Brown made available their society's hard-to-get *Alpine Heritage* historical booklet, and he provided invaluable personal anecdotes and tips concerning everything from "mining exploitation and ecology" to "four-wheel-

by Van P. Wilkinson

tion of silver, you are lucky to see a collapsing tunnel entrance or washed-out foundation of what was once the sole future for over 11,000 people. Sites like Mt. Bullion, Loope, or Centerville have not enjoyed the minimal weathering afforded desert mining camps—these sites,





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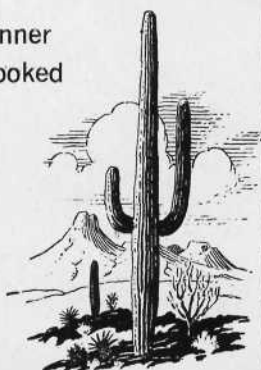
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though old enough to make metal-detecting and excavation worthwhile (1850s-1920s), will probably only tire the amateur relic-seeker. Says Mr. Brown, "Collectors scratch around a lot, but they don't find much; we (the Historical Society) have most of it in the museum, at least that not already taken by nature or vandalism."

Travelers to Alpine County can enter from the west (Hwys. 4, 88, 89), north (88), or east (89). That's in the warm months. Otherwise, you're lucky to find Highway 88 down to Minden, Nevada, or Highway 88 over Luther Pass not snow-blown; the others are closed for the winter. Off-the-road travelers can follow Mr. Brown's advice: "In winter, it's snowmobile; in summer, an experienced 4WDer will do all right; in spring, watch out—on most jeep trails there's a thin crust of ice or dry dirt and a foot of soup underneath." He noted that the local rescue team is busiest with 4WDers in the early autumn (first snowfall) and early spring (first thaws).

Because of the steep-walled canyons through which the paved highways wind, 70% of the past timber and mining history is right alongside the road. On Highway 89 east out of Markleeville, one passes Mt. Bullion, pre-1900 transport intersection; the Zaca mine, a silver bonanza of the 1870s; and Loope, the original site of Monitor City (now mined and posted by a local resident). From Mt. Bullion southwesterly along Highway 4, one passes Centerville, old timber and trading hub; Chalmer's Mansion, 1862 estate of London-backed financier; and the many mining spots along Silver Creek, most notably Silver Mountain.

When I spoke to Mr. Brown in the spring about 4WD travel in the ore-rich areas north of the Zaca Mine, I was told about a curious space-age twist to the

old mining game. About two years ago several French and Canadian mineral outfits began staking systematic and inclusive claims near the long-abandoned Zaca Mine. Other large scale expeditionary concerns soon joined in and, eventually, they all merged into one vast mining venture which has already claimed nearly 1/20th of Alpine County.

This sudden re-interest in a sleepily decaying and supposedly mined-out district is credited to mysterious satellite photo readings which pinpointed the mountains north of Monitor Pass and Loope as the geo-center of a giant rare mineral deposit. Nobody really knows. Markleeville residents, though, see the ubiquitous claim-stakes and see the big-monied survey teams laboring year-round with their delicate electronic equipment.

But, in this ecology-conscious generation, the mood is different. At least three major creeks along Highway 89 east from Markleeville are permanently polluted with sulphides due to reckless open-pit mining in the 1880s near the Leviathan Mine, a maneuver to produce sulphuric acid for mineral reduction and processing. Most Alpine County residents

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*Rugged but mineral-laden
terrain north of Monitor Creek.*

The west-central and southern portions of Alpine County are spotted with snow-melt lakes, many over 9,500 feet, and most accessible by 4WD or back-pack trail only. Near the headwaters of the West Fork of the Carson River (Burnside Lake Road, Hope Valley) you will find abandoned tungsten mines from the early 1950s tungsten-boom. Most of the wilderness areas south of Highway 4 average 9,500 feet and are legally restricted to foot travel. It is in this area that determined collectors find valuable remnants from the frenzied silver prospecting of the 1850s and 1860s.

My story, my description is not complete. This tucked-away parcel of Sierra Nevada wildland is possibly the most under-mentioned county in historical works covering early California mining and exploration. Many of us feel that is a fortunate oversight. □

don't want a repeat performance. Already this new mining company has halted access to such classically beautiful tunnel-mines as the Morningstar or Curtz—because they are re-opening virtually every collapsed or abandoned mine in the area.

Visitors to Alpine County are unaware of this back-country crisis because there is so much to visit just in a passenger car. Grovers Hot Springs, three miles west of Markleeville, features warm mineral pools set in a high-valley meadow adjacent to camping sites. Most of the county, state or federal campgrounds are near or on rivers, such as Kit Carson Camp, Snowshoe Springs Camp, Crystal Springs Camp, and Markleeville Camp.

There is only one "city" in Alpine County: Markleeville, Woofords, Paynesville and Fredericksburg are pockets of rural settlements near the West Fork of the Carson River, but Markleeville is the county seat and the commerce center of the county. The only hotel, a compact wooden two-story edifice, dates from 1885. The museum, a gnarled early-mining jail, and the original schoolhouse are all within strolling distance of mid-city Markleeville.



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FAULT FINDING

by Helen Walker

CALIFORNIA HAS rugged and lofty mountain peaks, wide and fertile valleys, warm desert sands, and on the west, it is bordered by a long and curvaceous coast line. California also has earthquakes.

The tectonic type earthquakes that California is subject to are quakes that thrust forth mountains, between peaks forms valleys, and by cutting off air

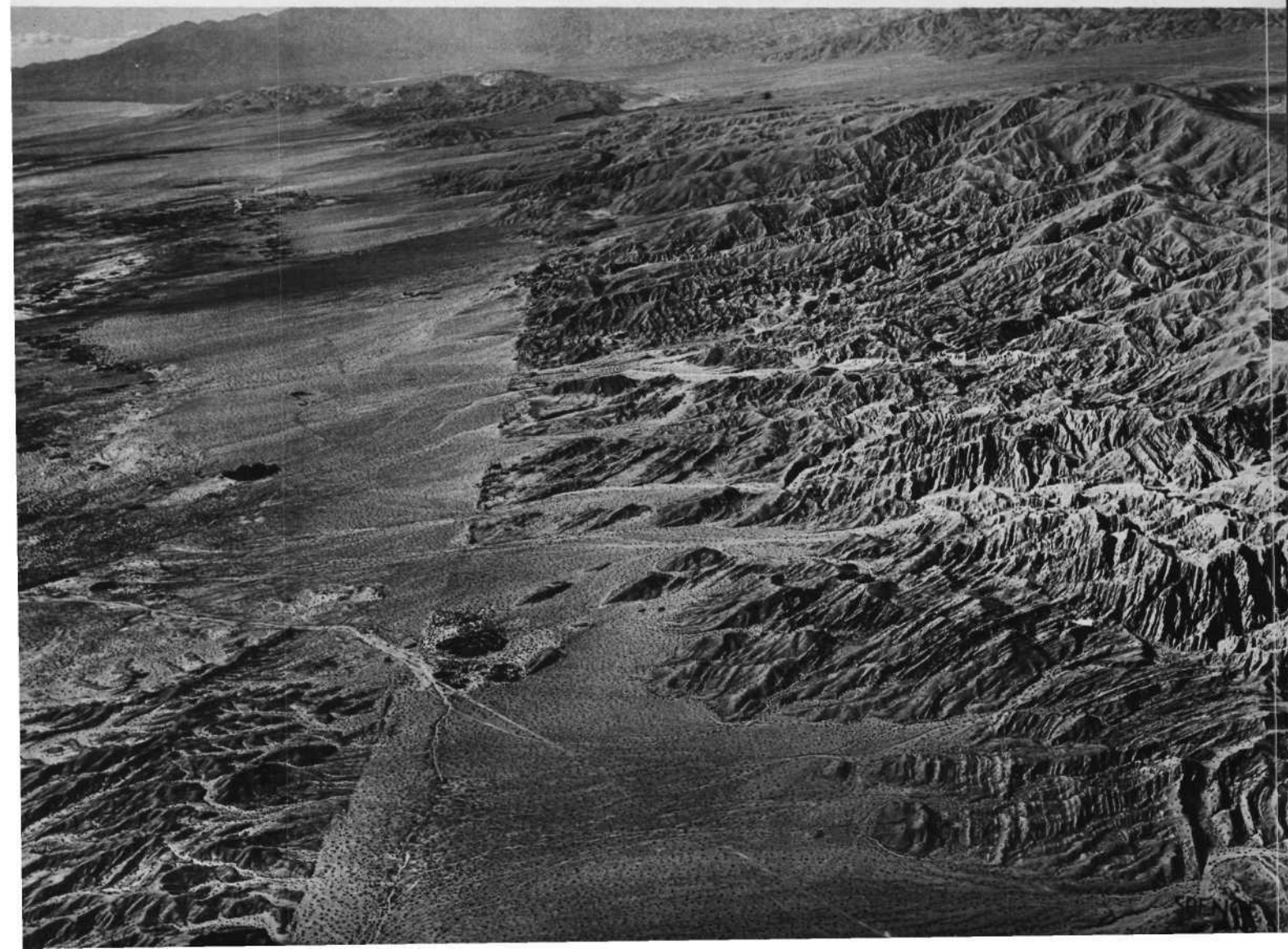
flows, creates our deserts.

One of the greatest fault areas in the world, looping around the Pacific basin, is called the circum-Pacific seismic belt. Within this belt 80 percent of the world's earthquakes occur. The belt lies along the western portion of California and consists of a series of crustal blocks. These blocks are separated by cracks of weakness called faults. In some sections

the fault extends to a depth of 50 miles.

California's most famous fault is the San Andreas. It forms a continuous break in a north-south direction, and extends beyond our International border into the Gulf of Lower California. Displacement of ground surfaces is estimated to be 350 miles, perhaps more. Branching fault lines, such as the one

An aerial view of the San Andreas fault cutting through the Indio Hills near Palm Desert in Riverside County.



*In many cases
the fault
can be traced
by ground cover
which grows
in a linear pattern.
In mountain
areas there
is often a
variation in color.*



between Tejon Pass and the Salton Sea, show signs of separation of terrain for a distance of 50 miles.

It may seem hard for us to imagine ground surface becoming dislodged for such distance—but we must consider the movement has taken place over a period of 100 million years. Studies have shown that the drift averages two inches a year—so, it is indeed possible.

Fault lines that exist through our southern desert areas leave tell-tale lines we can observe when we are familiar with the pattern of topography. Before we begin fault finding, let's review some of the details to watch for.

Keep in mind when geologists mention a recent activity, they are speaking of occurrences that happened hundreds or possibly thousands of years ago. Another important tip is that tracing is best done in low light. Early morning or late afternoon hours supply the best light. At these times, one sees the landscape at sharp relief—and the lack of glare brings out color variations.

Fault lines along San Andreas are linear in characteristic—which arranges surface details in straight lines. A line of trees or fence posts, normally in a straight line, may be offset by a number of feet,

then continue on in pattern.

In our southern desert, the path of the fault line is marked by small oases where palm trees grow. They are supplied with trapped spring water blocked by earlier activity. Another feature to watch for is rounded surfaces and long low hills. In windswept areas such as the Carrizo Plain, these scarps are very prominent.

Beginning at the southern tip of the desert—the San Jacinto Fault, a branch of the San Andreas—shows activity in the southern end of the Salton Basin where a wall of mountains encircles the north end of Borrego Valley.

Differences in soil texture and color are a great aid in tracing fault lines. North of the Salton Sea, and east of the city of Mecca, the fault enters Painted Canyon. By following State 195, south-east from Mecca, you travel through scenic towering rock. They show evidences of twisting, tilting, and folding—being contoured into imaginative shapes. Their surfaces have been weathered and color in the exposures runs rampant. Squeezed from within the earth to the now exterior surface are granites, volcanic and some sedimentary rock.

Indio Hills follow this same pattern as do the Mecca Hills. The bizarre shapes

are the results of material being extruded from cracks along the San Andreas fault line.

South and east of San Bernardino is the Mill Creek Canyon road. The road crosses the San Andreas fault between the Mill Creek Ranger Station and Mill Creek Canyon. You will notice a sign calling your attention to the fault. It is the only such sign in the 700 mile length of the fault. As you drive along the road, watch for differences in colors that impregnate the rocks—they are signals to you showing opposite sides of the fault. Notice the mountains to the north are formed of granites which appear white. Exposures to the south are beds of tilted and eroded red sandstone.

Fault lines continue in a northwesterly direction toward the outskirts of San Bernardino, onward through Cajon Pass, toward Los Angeles. As you speed along the freeway through Cajon Pass, you can give thanks to this famous fault pattern. Contouring of the mountains has provided the cut through the mountains for traffic to flow eastward.

The fault cuts across the freeway, and in some areas it lies a mile wide. Exposures here are of Pelona schist, crushed and discolored by time and weather. An

A good example
of the
folding and
tilting
caused by
mountain-building
forces along
the fault line
can be seen
along the
Antelope Valley
freeway
near Palmdale.



excellent spot for close examination is behind the weighing station.

Lost Lake is west of the freeway. It is a sag pond created by complex faulting in the area. Perhaps the most recent activ-

ity along the fault line is seen in a shallow trench on the south side of the road about a half mile west of Lost Lake. The activity represents a rupture during the quake of 1857.

Watch again about a mile to the west of Lost Lake, where an outcropping of pink sedimentary rocks appear on the landscape. This outcropping stands on the north side of the San Andreas fault, and is a part of the Cajon Beds. Another group of these rocks is found at the Devil's Punchbowl, a distance of 25 miles to the north. (See *Desert*, December 1969.) It is believed that the rock formations at the Punchbowl remained on the south side of the fault, while these at Cajon Beds moved the distance on the north side of the fault.

Color is the clue to the fault line along the foothills north from Devil's Punchbowl. Distinguishing lines of separation are shown in the pink and green rocks. An example is easily spotted from the road a mile south of Ft. Tejon Road, on 106th Street. Watch on the right for the hill capped with green and based in pink rock.

Across from the intersection of Harold Palmdale Road and State Highway 6, park and walk north a few yards to the railroad track. You will observe a line of two-foot high white posts following the tracks. These posts are set beside bench marks put down by the U.S. Coast and

Geodetic Survey. Their purpose is to measure any movement along the fault line in that area. Every 10 years they are re-surveyed for the record. There are three other sets of similar markers placed at Gorman, Whitewater Canyon and Cajon Pass.

A very dramatic display of tilting and folding was revealed when the Palmdale portion of the freeway was constructed. The last section of cuts before the Palmdale turnoff is one of the outstanding examples of the magnitude of earth movement and folding during a time of stress and force in an effort to create mountains.

The fault lines continue northward, showing a picturesque display at Vasques Rocks, which is another segment of the Punchbowl and Cajon outcroppings. Endless other examples will be brought to your attention now that the signs are aware to you. A flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco is a prime time to watch for signs of the fault, as commercial air lines usually fly the inland route which follows the fault line.

As you drive the desert highways and mountain byways, watch for the pulverized and softened rocks, most of which have been altered by the action of wind and weather. You will discover that "fault finding" can be fun—when it is observed in the landscape that has made our Southwest a land of beauty. □

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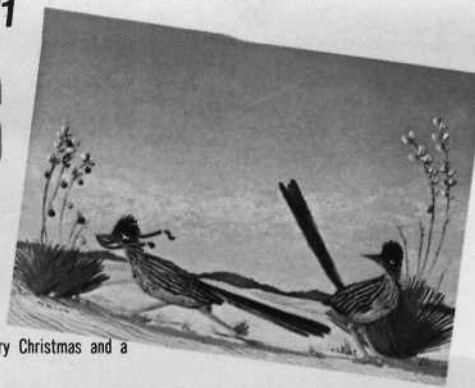
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CAPTAIN JOHN SUTTER always believed that a "pot of gold" was waiting for him around the corner. And he was right. But, ironically, his pot of gold was so tremendous it started the 1849 California gold rush—and Sutter not only failed to get any of the gold for himself but it cost him everything he already owned!

When the cry, "Gold! Gold on the American River" was shouted through the streets of San Francisco, Sutter's Fort was immediately given a place in history. And John Sutter should have become the richest man in the world. He had always been considered astute in business dealings and was well known as an expert "finagler". He had talked the governor of California, Juan Alvarado, into granting him 50,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley where he built his fort at the junction of the American and Sacramento Rivers. He had accumulated herds of sheep, cows, and horses; built stores, warehouses, a smith shop, even a chemist's store. And it was when he needed logs for his fast-expanding empire and built a mill on the American River to provide the lumber that he discovered the first gold in California's history and started the rush under which he was trampled.

On the morning of January 24, 1848, a helper opened the sluice gate at the

Sutter's Pot of

lower end of Sutter's mill to wash out the sand and stones when he saw some bright yellow specks in the sediment. He immediately brought them to his boss.

At first, Sutter was skeptical. He had never seen gold in its natural state. He compared the specks to a five-dollar gold piece, and they looked similar. He put them in an anvil and hammered them—they were flattened but did not break. He even put them in a pot of lye and they survived. Then, at once, he knew the specks were gold! Millions within his

grasp! Power! Prestige! And, for a man like John Sutter, this was life itself. But his jubilation was immediately mixed with apprehension. He was not an American citizen, nor was the gold even found on the land that had been granted to him by the now deposed Spanish Governor.

It was a nerve-racking dilemma. And, at first, Sutter tried to keep his "find" a secret while he attempted various ways to get title to the land. But when every effort failed, being a forever optimist and always willing to take big gambles, he decided in his inimitable grandiose manner to spread the news as quickly and as far as possible.

He reasoned that prospectors would have to pass his fort to get to the gold and he had a large supply of liquor, shoes, saddles, bridles, blankets and other articles that were constantly being turned out in his many shops. His great herds of cows, sheep and hogs could feed thousands, and he had over 2,000 horses and mules. But of most importance, since his fort was the natural gateway to the Sierra Nevada, prospectors would have to pass through his empire—and, he could set his own prices.

This became the major irony of Captain Sutter's life. By all the rules of logic, the finding of gold presented him with a matchless opportunity, especially since his establishment was the only outpost of civilization in the great California interior. And it will always be a subject of controversy as to just why John Sutter failed to gain the spectacular successes that appeared to be within his grasp.



An exact replica of Sutter's Mill on the American River where gold was first discovered in 1848 is now part of the Coloma State Park. (See Desert, Sept. 70.)

Gold

by Lois Wolf Buist

Sutter himself always claimed that he was a victim of circumstances beyond his control. The gold fever was so contagious people of every walk in life rushed to the American River. The hillsides were pictured as strewn with nuggets, gorges crammed with gold dust—all for the picking, and this sudden appearance of tens of thousands of frantic gold hunters caused a complete breakdown of law and order.

The newcomers helped themselves to Sutter's land, crops, livestock and what-

ever else they wanted. Then, to add insult to his fast-growing injuries, all of his army of workers, both Indian and white, deserted him and joined the rush to the "diggings." His fields and mills were left unattended, his livestock wandered aimlessly, and his great enterprise broke down completely.

But perhaps the biggest and most often accepted reason for the collapse of Sutter's empire was the nature of the man himself. He had heretofore been cunning and shrewd in all his business dealings. But, above all, he was a "dandy." He had an obsession for praise and lived by the pomp and ceremony of the military. He designated himself a "Captain" and his mock fort was run by strict military protocol. His men wore uniforms and paid deference to the "Captain" as if he were lord of the universe.

Then, suddenly, Sutter found himself in the center of the brightest limelight being cast on any man of that day. Visitors poured into the fort, many of them were distinguished people, but most were strangers burning with the get-rich fever. Also, the Captain had a liking for the product of his own distillery, and his visitors soon found that by joining him in toasts from the ever-present *aguardiente* bottle, they could easily flatter him into granting concessions that always seemed

to put John Sutter on the losing end.

It was not too long before Sutter was completely incapable of coping with conditions brought about by the discovery of gold. His family arrived from Switzerland and his son tried desperately to save some of the estate, but by the end of 1849, Sutter sold his semi-deserted fort and all its enterprises for \$40,000. He retired to a small farm on the Feather River, and with the help of his *aguardiente* bottle, he tried to keep alive the grandeur of his old fort. But, in 1866, fire took the farm and all that was left of his once tremendous holdings.

When word of the straits to which the great "Captain" was reduced became known, a group of his old friends launched a movement in his behalf, and the California legislature passed a bill granting him a modest income to sustain him during his declining years. He moved to Washington, D.C., and spent the rest of his years in a continuous and vain attempt to regain some of the property he claimed had been stolen from him.

And although the 1849 California gold rush wrote some of the most exciting pages in American history and meant many things to many people, it's small wonder that to Captain John Sutter, who was the first to discover the gold, it only meant a time of infamy and dishonor. □

Once a wilderness outpost, Sutter's Fort is now surrounded by Sacramento. The restored buildings house the original equipment, weapons and other artifacts, making it one of the most interesting museums in California.



Discovery of a hitherto unknown species of Salamander—which need water and are poorly adapted to land life—existing in the arid Southern California desert is a bonanza for zoologists. In this exclusive article for DESERT Magazine, Naturalist K. L. Boynton describes discovery and value of *Batrachoseps aridus* to the scientific world.

by K. L. Boynton

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Photos by

Dr. Arden H. Brame, Jr.,

Pasadena, California

The Singular Salamander

ON JULY 1, 1971 the State of California declared ***Batrachoseps aridus*** an endangered animal, entitled to full protection under special permit requirements, with violators subject to a fine of up to \$500 or six months in prison, or both. This official move has caused great rejoicing among members of the scientific community here and abroad, for this little character is something brand new—a slender salamander of a kind never seen before.

Found only in one small area of

Less than four inches long, the newly discovered species are an enigma to the scientific world.

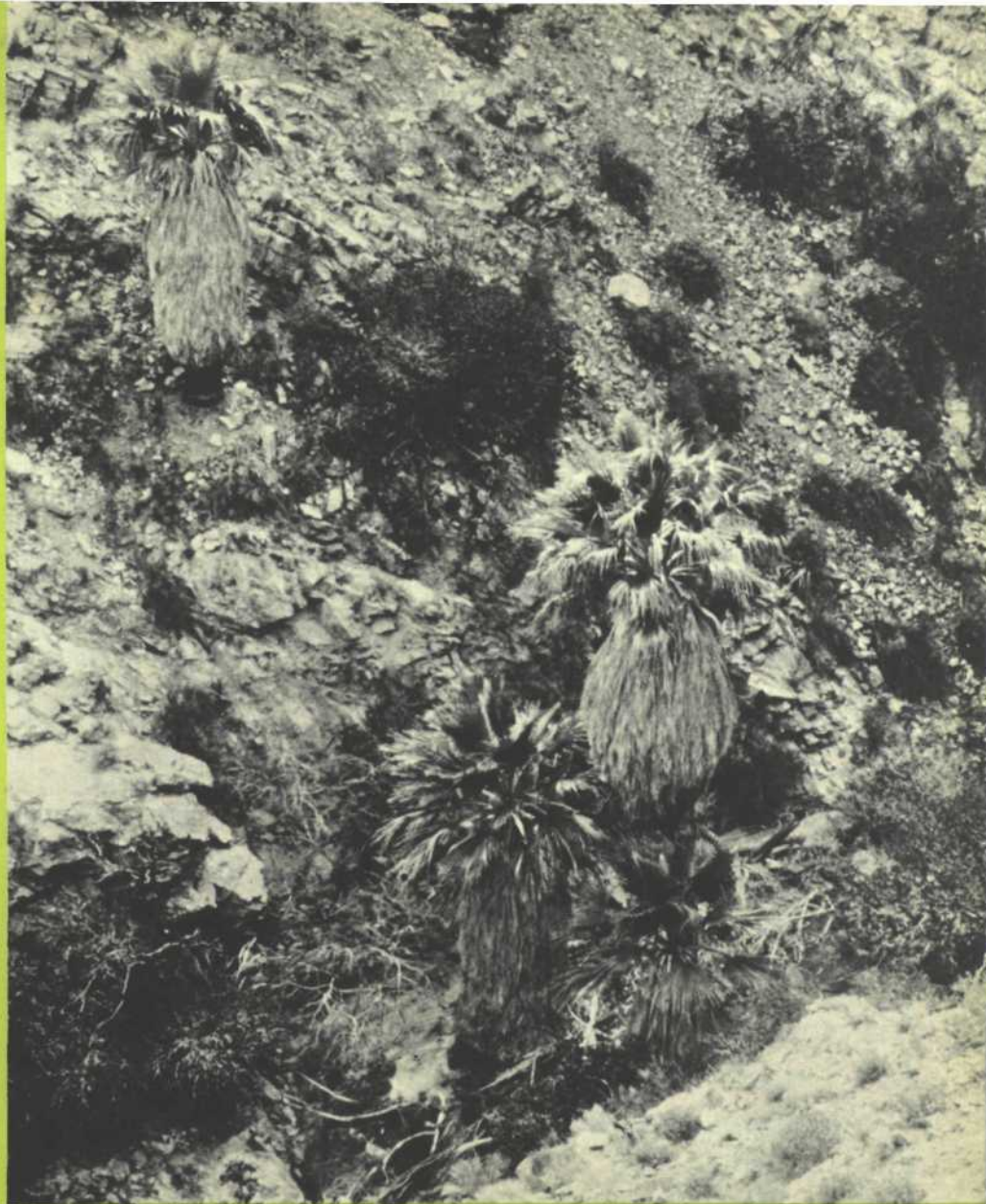


*It was in this
general area near
Palm Desert, California,
the unusual
salamander
was discovered.*

less than an acre, and with only a possible 250 to 500 around at most, this entire new species could become extinct in a single day of over-collecting. Hence the imperative need for protecting this new salamander who possesses interesting differences that set him apart from known kinds and make him a potential source of considerable information. Also, he was found in a place where no salamander had any business to be living: in the very dry desert.

Salamanders are cousins of frogs and toads, equipped, however, with tails. Like frogs and toads, they are amphibians (amphi-two; bios-life)—animals who, although they may dwell on land, are not well adapted to terrestrial life. They are still closely tied to the old water habitat from whence their ancestors came long ago. Like their cousins, salamanders were also shortchanged when body coverings were handed out. They have no feathers, fur or scales to protect them and lose body water fast through their thin bare skin. They are faced with the constant danger of drying out unless they keep themselves moist. Salamanders are even more poorly adapted for land life than are frogs and toads. Many of the terrestrial forms lack lungs entirely, their oxygen intake being mainly through their skin, and they suffocate if it becomes too dry. They are highly dependent, therefore, on the moisture in the soil for survival. All in all, a dry desert is the last place for any salamander to call home.

The story of how **B. aridus** made his debut to the scientific world is an odd one. It seems that Warden Russell Murphey of the California Department of Fish and Game, out walking the high desert country in Riverside County, climbed down a steep slope into a canyon and, upon reaching the bottom, saw a small moist area in the sand at the base of a cliff. Being a good fellow, he set



about making a small water hole for the benefit of the local wildlife.

As he pulled away some of the overlying rocks, what should he uncover but clusters of salamanders. He was astonished. Never before had salamanders been found in the California desert, in fact never before this far east in the state. Yet here they were, clumped together in the wet spaces under the limestone slabs in a heat-ridden cholla-creosote desert. He replaced their fortress covering quickly.

Returning to the spot with Zoologist Brame, he lifted the rocks and showed his find. Now to the average viewer, **B. aridus** might not look like much. In fact, to the uninitiated, the best of salamanders are apt to look like somebody's poor job of lizard designing. And **B. aridus** is only about $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches long at most, skin-

ny with smallish legs and big feet. Beyond the ability to curl up tight like a watch spring, he is obviously no mental genius. But salamander-expert Brame knew he was looking at something very special, which indeed his subsequent study (still in progress) is proving.

Batrachoseps aridus, or the Desert Slender Salamander as Brame named it, lives under the limestone sheeting in hot summer and spends the cooler months under the rock talus at the base of the cliffs. He is built for life underground, very long with added vertebrae, and with a much elongated tail. He eats small arthropods and other soil animals found underground and on the surface. Beyond this, nothing much is known at the moment of his particular habits or how he conducts his social life.

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Palm Desert, California 92260

Hendrickson's study of a larger cousin, a species found in the Pacific Cascades coastal region, showed this type to be very sedentary, with a maximum home range of 5½ feet. It spends much time underground under leaf litter in holes dug by other animals, or in spaces where roots have decayed. It is active on the surface only where there is sufficient moisture and when the weather is not colder than 50 degrees since cold temperatures reduce its metabolism and it has no internal source of heat.

Among land salamanders, a clan trick of quick tailloss — a portion coming away easily when pulled — is a fine distraction to a predator, for the lost part jerks and jumps muscularly, allowing its former owner to escape. In most species the tail mass is bigger than half the mass of the body and is a storage place to tide the animal over in periods of stress. The extra long tail of the Desert Slender Salamander might well prove to be a life saving factor for him when the world outside his moist limestone retreat is too dry to supply food.

The Desert Slender Salamander is one of the most primitive forms of its kind of land salamanders. As such, it is a piece of evolution on the hoof, so to speak. Facts gained from a close study of its blood, its gross anatomy and its behavior could help greatly to fill out the history of the salamander tribe and put the various kinds living today into their proper relationship. The facts would also contribute to the knowledge of the evolution of amphibians as a group, a matter of considerable importance. And why is this so? Because, it seems, amphibians were the first animals with backbones to invade the land. And it was from these old amphibian forebears that lines of reptiles, birds and mammals gradually evolved.

The first amphibians themselves arose from certain primitive fishes who lived in fresh water, but were air breathers, being equipped with lungs. Now several styles of fishes also had lungs in those days, but these particular fish also developed something new. The two pairs of fins

which were located up front and towards the rear of their bodies respectively and connected to supporting girdles were designed differently.

Unlike the usual fish fin construction, the bony set-up in each of these fins consisted of one long bone that articulated with the girdle, and two bones below this one with still smaller bones radiating out to the ends of the fin. It was this new design that formed the starting point for the evolution of limb bones: the upper bones became the upper ones of the arm and leg, the next two the lower bones, and the outlying ones formed the wrists, ankles and five digits. It was this change of paired fins into limbs that opened the way to land living.

To be sure these early amphibians were still almost completely fish-like and their walking gear wasn't yet very good. But they could make it to another pond if theirs dried up, or waddle about looking for food, or perhaps escape water enemies by going out further on land. Old *Ichthyostegalia*, one of the earliest, was a heavy animal about three feet long who lived in Greenland about 300 million years ago. He had legs which, while they were held out more or less horizontally, gave him a pretty good purchase on mud, and these plus the fishlike undulation of his body moved him forward. Today's salamanders still get around with only a slight modification of this primitive way, since their walking gear is not a whole lot better. *B. aridus*, short of leg compared to the length of his body and tail, would have trouble raising his body very far off the ground, necessary for efficient locomotion and speed.

As can be imagined, the change from life in the water to life on land was a tremendous one. It took a very long time. It involved a real reorganization of the body to meet the requirements of the new environment. Because, for instance, eyes had to be kept moist, protected, eyelids and their accompanying glands evolved. There were changes in the ear set-up to handle air-borne sounds, and many other changes took place all over the body even in amphibians who never did a complete job of it

still being partly adapted to terrestrial life today. Some of the changes were in response to the new environment; some were improvements in body design that made it work better mechanically.

There are gaps in the fossil record, and not very much about the early amphibians is known. At best fossils can show only what took place structurally. Yet the structure, habits and biology of animals change together—evolution being a process of change in the whole animal. So it is that by studying living forms—particularly primitive ones—the facts about the old fellows become known, and the story of how and when the modern amphibians evolved can be pieced together little by little.

What is learned from *B. aridus* will help. Further, since this new salamander possesses different body proportions and can live in the desert—a thing unheard of before in his clan—he could pose some highly interesting questions. Are salamanders starting an invasion of a new habitat? Or is this species a remnant left over from other days when the species was much more widely distributed in an environment more congenial to salamanders, the environment itself having changed? Or, carrying the possibilities still further, a philosopher might ask: is something altogether new on the way—a new form that will emerge in a few million years?

Evolution speaks not only of the past, but is a continuing process. Strange as it may seem it is a fact that when new lines start, they arise not from already highly evolved types, but from the primitive types still around. The fishes that gave rise to the first amphibians, for instance, were primitive members of a society that already had highly evolved bony fishes. But it was they and not the advanced hotshots that made possible the vertebrate conquest of land.

So, while this little new Desert Salamander is by no means the long-sought Missing Link, he still will play his part in helping to tell how things went in the evolution of the vertebrates; and how from the ancient amphibians arose the reptiles

who, in their invention of a shell to enclose their egg, removed the need to return to water for reproduction, thus freeing the backboned animals to live complete lives on land.

The affair *B. aridus* herein reported is particularly satisfactory because for once a crucial species was saved before it was too late. Spotted by an informed and alert warden, it was described by a scientist not only expert in his field, but determined to see that these animals kept their right to life, and that the chance to study them living in their habitat would not be lost.

It is not easy to get an animal onto a protected list. Zoologist Brame went at it, and before long everybody who could do anything, heard about *B. aridus*. Lostetter, coordinator of rare and endangered species for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fisk, of the California Department of Fish and Game, Penny, California director of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Peters of the Smithsonian, Honegger in Zurich, Robert Stebbins of the University of California, C. L. Stebbins of the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council all helped, and finally it was done. Not only protected in California, the Desert Slender Salamander is also in the United States Red Data Book of endangered animals, and further has made it to the Red Data Book of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Zurich, Switzerland.

Now Zoologist Brame is working to get the still vulnerable discovery site (which is in private ownership at

present) included in the Reserve of the Deep Canyon Desert Research Center, a move which should be done to insure the Desert Slender Salamander complete protection. □

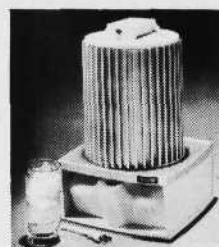
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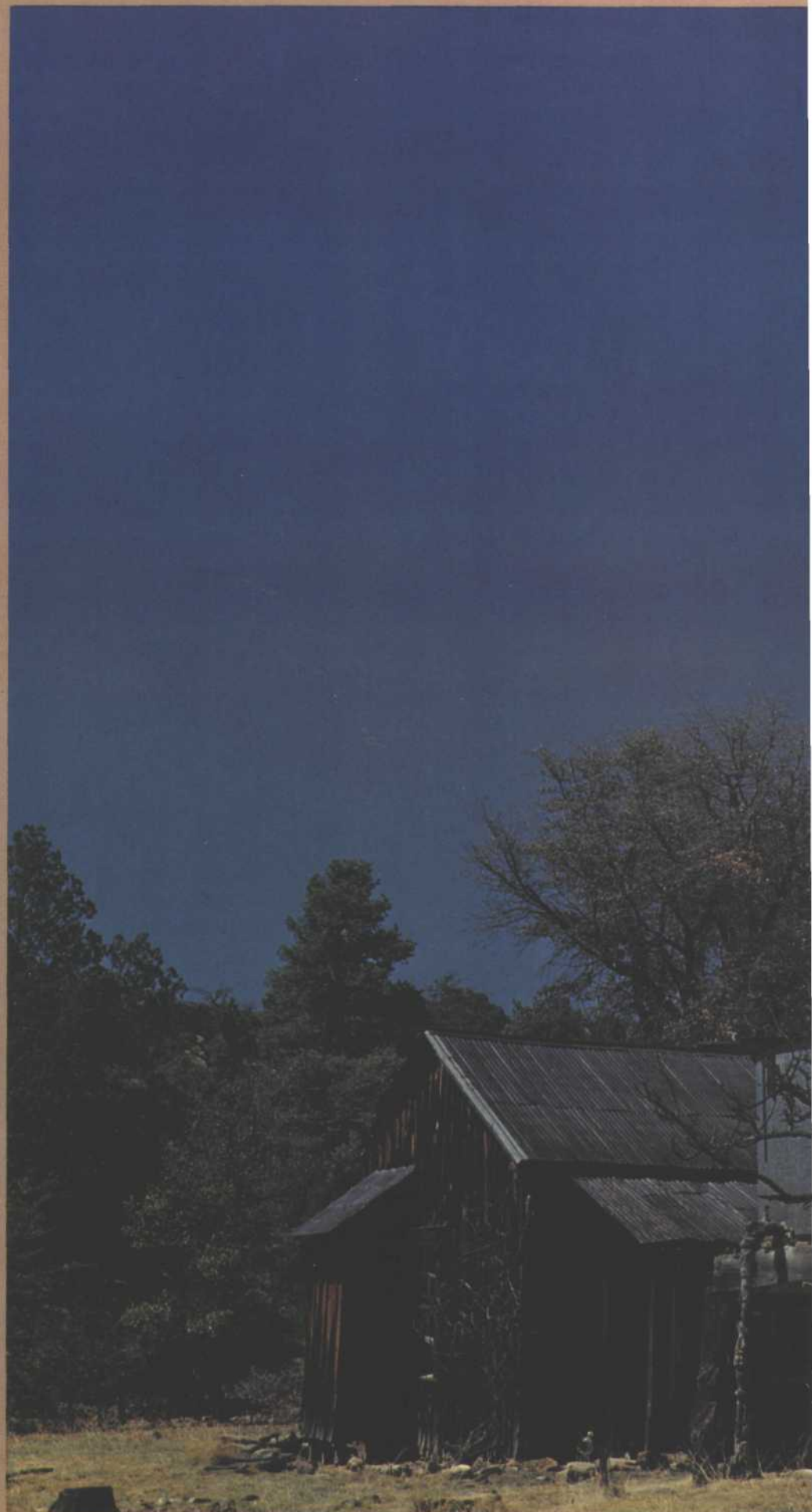
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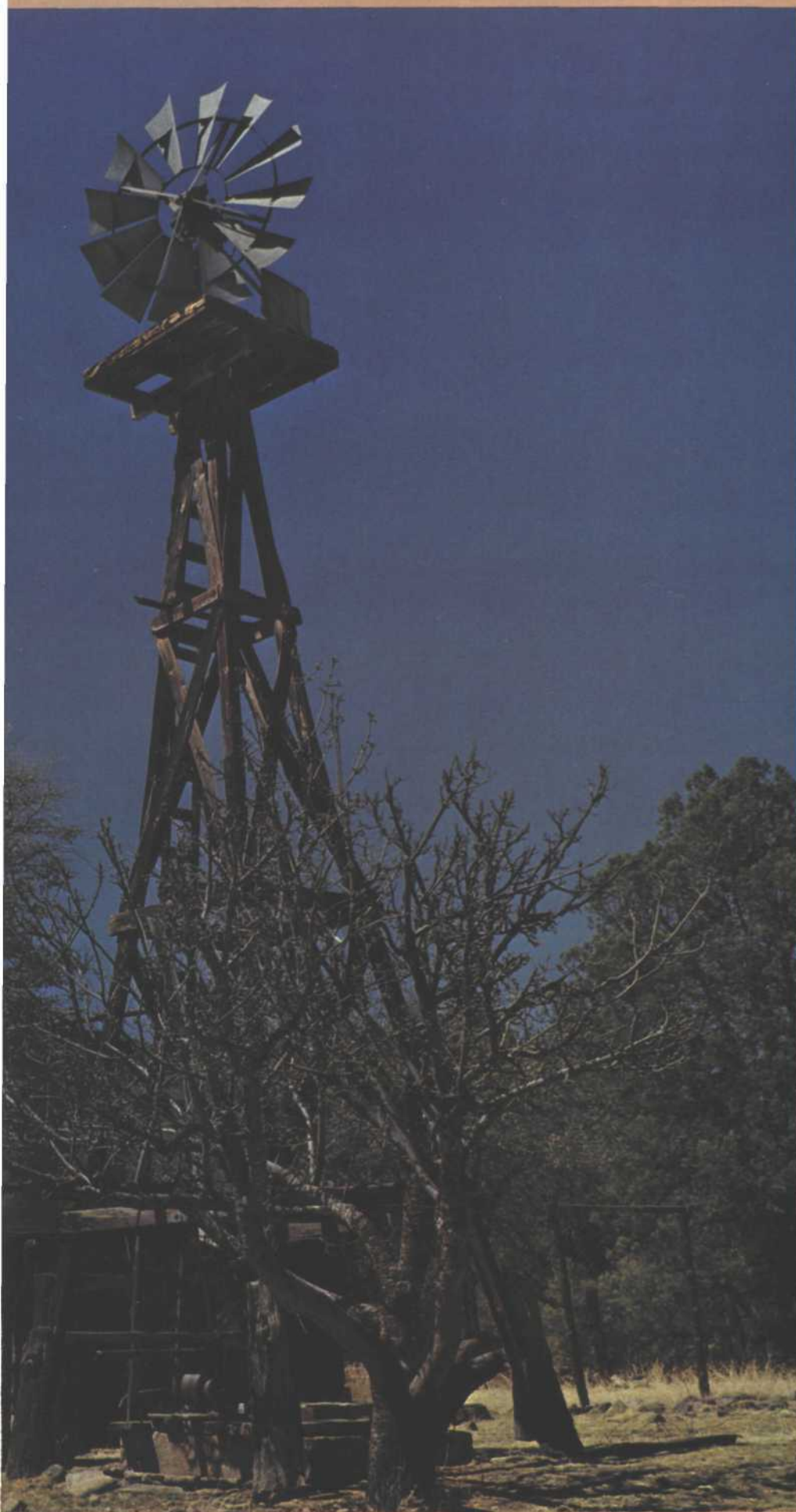
Arizona's Seldom Seen Sunnyside

by
Ernie
Cowan

THE LONELY wind blew cold as we rounded the western edge of Arizona's Huachuca Mountains in search of another western ghost town. As we completed our loop to the south side of the mountains, however, the skies cleared and the wind stopped. Now we knew how our destination, Sunnyside, got its name.

There was another warm side of Sunnyside we were soon to learn about. It was Mr. and Mrs. John McIntyre and their friendly little dog, Rags. They are the only residents of this fascinating footprint of civilization tucked high into the Huachuca Mountains. It was from them we learned that Sunnyside is more than the average run-of-the-mill ghost town.





Getting to Sunnyside, in Arizona's Cochise County, is half the fun. It's out of the way and not easy to find, but conventional automobiles can make the trip in good weather.

From Arizona State 82 south of Tucson the visitor should take State 83 south. This is a good dirt road shown on roadmaps. Follow 83 to Parker Canyon Lake and here U.S. Forest Service signs will begin pointing the way to Sunnyside. Follow the signs and you should have no trouble.

The road to Sunnyside is an interesting drive through wide-open pinyon and juniper country, then into pine hills within the Coronado National Forest. Sightings of javelina, coati, and maybe a mountain lion or antelope are not uncommon.

As we followed the two-wheel track to Sunnyside, we dropped into a little valley where the town is situated. Rounding a turn past one of the largest sycamore trees I have ever seen, we were greeted by the town's welcoming committee.

Like a furry cannonball, Rags darted out to meet us with stubby tail twitching and an eager tongue flapping.

"We don't get many folks around here," soft-spoken Mr. McIntyre told us. "So Rags is real glad to see ya." As we toured the town, Rags was our shadow.

Many of the ghost towns of the American west are silent relics of the past, founded by lust for wealth and recorded only in history. Only dusty books or yellowed newspapers tell of their dim past. But in Sunnyside a part of the town's history is still there to give first-hand information.

John McIntyre was born in 1891 and came to the Huachucas on muleback in 1898 when Sunnyside was founded. But it wasn't the lust for material fortune that brought people to this tiny valley 6,500 feet in the mountains. Sunnyside was founded as a religious colony.

A man named Samuel Donnelly, tired of the drinking, gambling and corruption of other towns, came into the mountains to build his own town. At its peak, about 50 people lived in Sunnyside and shared work, income and food in a commune life style.

The people of Sunnyside became known as the Donnellites, or Copper Glance Christians after the Copper Glance

Mine that was operated to support the community.

McIntyre recalls the men of the town worked in the mines, while the women taught school, prepared food and did domestic work. Everyone lived in their own homes, but a common dining hall was used for meals. The earnings from the Copper Glance Mine were divided within the community.

Rags and McIntyre are eager to take you on a tour of the town. All that remains today are a half-dozen weather-worn buildings. On a hillside overlooking the town, McIntyre and his wife, Anna, live in a modern home they built a few years ago. They have a telephone, but no electricity.

Some of the town's old buildings have collapsed, but McIntyre, with a sweep of his worn hands, can point to where they once stood and what they were used for. At one spot he placed a large rock to mark the head of the common table where the community sat in prayer each evening before dinner.

As you stroll with McIntyre through the little meadow that was downtown Sunnyside, history seems somehow closer as he vividly tells of past events.

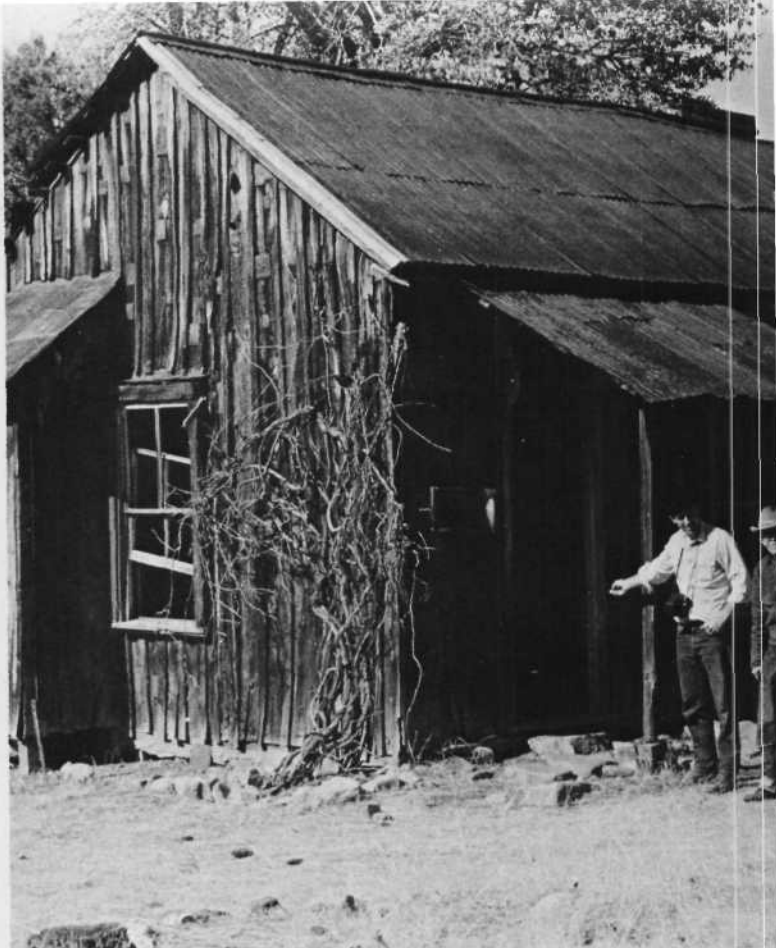
He tells of the swing youngsters used and points to rusted chain hanging from a tree. He tells of badmen and their flight through Sunnyside to Mexico and the pursuing sheriff catching them the next day.

As we walked through the old homes

As John McIntyre talks to the author, Rags (right) darts out to mug the camera.

(Below)

One of the many antiques at Sunnyside is this 1880 Army bed frame.



he describes the interesting people who lived there and events such as the time lightning struck the potbellied stove on a winter night. It was cold that night and he was standing with his knee against the stove and was knocked to the ground.

The houses of Sunnyside were built with hand tools and some of the carpentry and finishing work is as fine as

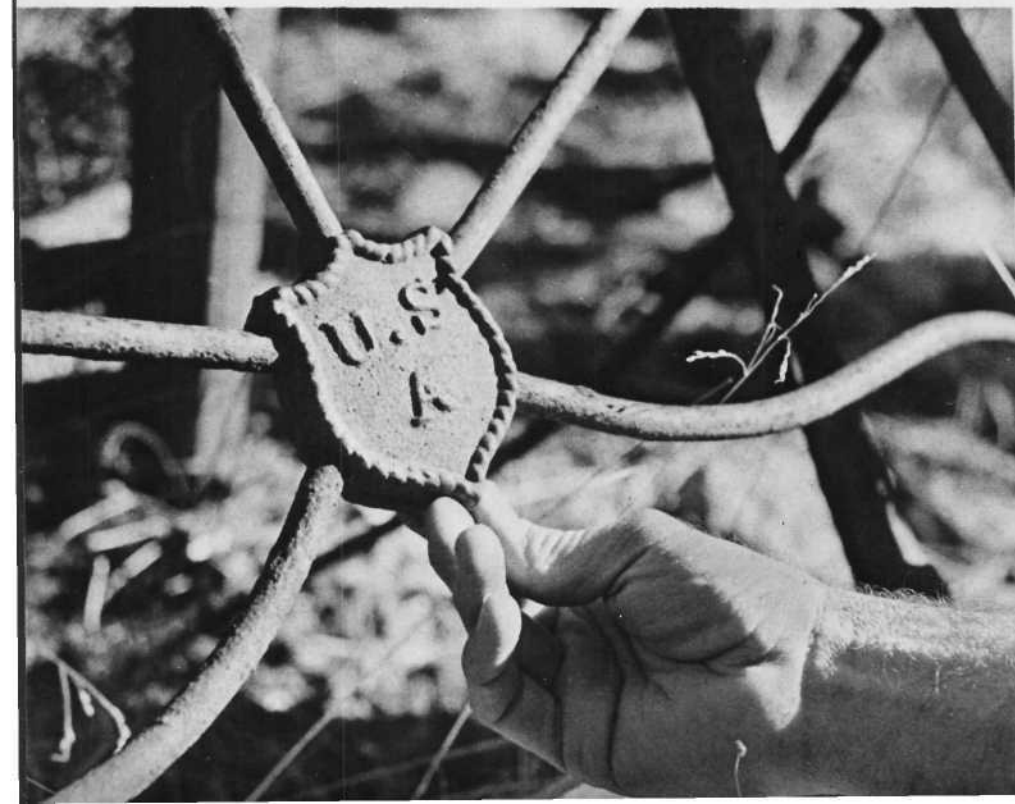
any you will find today.

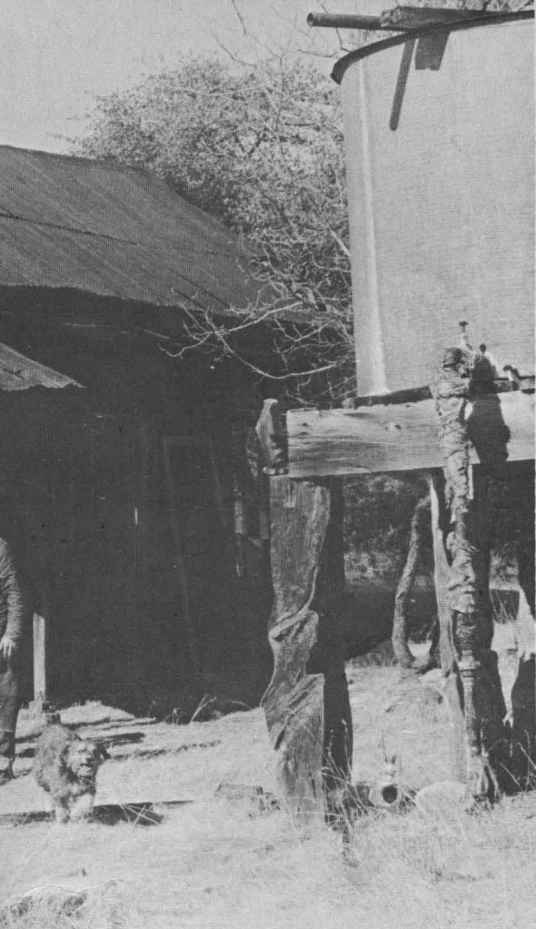
For insulation, the inside of the homes had muslin ceilings to keep out drafts, and the walls were plastered with newspapers and painted over. In the old Bert Langford home where the paint and wallpaper has peeled off, copies of *Scientific American Magazine* from 1902 and the *Los Angeles Daily Times* from 1903 hang as a historic montage.

One of Sunnyside's remaining buildings is the old schoolhouse. McIntyre tells many stories about this building, but denies with a waggish smile that he was anything other than a model student. An old blackboard still rests against the wall of the school, and John carefully shows the visitor where he sat by a window to learn the three Rs.

Pine lumber hauled from the surrounding mountains were used to build Sunnyside's buildings. The buildings were never painted on the outside and time and weather has stained them a natural rustic color.

McIntyre lived in Sunnyside until 1904 when he moved with his family to Tombstone. Two years later his mother died and he moved to Bisbee where he became a blacksmith in a shop located where the giant Lavender Pit copper mine is now. He worked as a blacksmith until retiring.





In 1964, he and Anna decided to return to Sunnyside.

They now live a happy life in the mountains. They have a rich garden that supplies them well and they make rare trips to town for supplies.

McIntyre might be called the town mayor, sheriff and historian. He takes great pride in his role as caretaker and he beams when visitors arrive and ask questions about the town.

Sunnyside is a ghost town today because the copper ore ran out and prices dropped. About 1930 the last permanent residents left and the town fell to ruin. The post office had closed some years earlier and Sunnyside became just a name on the map.

There is no doubt that Sunnyside is one of the most unusual antique towns in Arizona. Its unique history and the opportunity to gain first-hand facts make it different than most ghost towns.

The McIntyres welcome visitors, but remember that this is private land. You are trespassing. You are a visitor and must remember to act accordingly.

As we said goodbye, McIntyre asked us to wait a moment and come into his house. There he asked his wife to thank the Lord for our coming and to grant us good fortune. We had, indeed, discovered a Sunnyside. □

Notes from the Field

CALIFORNIA

Providence Wood Area

Harold Rouse of Tehachapi states a new trail now leads to this fine wood deposit. The new route is much easier climbing which is good news, indeed!

Rainbow Ridge

Permission to collect at this popular area must be obtained *in advance* from the Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, P. O. Box 5081, China Lake, Calif. 93555. No fee is charged but commercial collecting or blasting is not allowed.

Bullion Mountains

The Bullion Mountains plume agate beds are permanently closed to all collecting. The Commandant of the Marine Base states there is too much live ammunition in the area.

Johnson Valley

Approximately 100,000 acres in this high desert valley northeast of Victorville are under consideration as a site for off-road vehicle use—mainly motorcycles—by the B.L.M. The Valley residents are not in accord and have formed a committee which hopes to prevent such designation.

Fifteen thousand acres in adjoining Stoddard Wells Valley has been set aside as an off-road-vehicle area for the use individuals or small groups. The larger, Johnson Valley area, is needed for staging cross-country racing and other competitive events. Both of these areas are under heavy use by motorcycles at the present time.

Kern County, Castle Butte

Rapidly expanding subdivisions are surrounding this long popular collecting locale. The red palm diggings are still open but the palm deposit to the east is definitely within subdivision boundaries. Several other areas are also no longer open. A new map to the Castle Butte gem fields will be in the Second Edition of *Desert Gem Trails*, soon to be off the press.

Imperial County, Sand Hills

A sorely needed access road for the heavily used Sand Hills area will soon be a reality. The B.L.M. states the road will eventually be 22 miles long, leaving State 78 at the western edge of the dunes to connect with Interstate 8. Two recreations sites will be constructed along the first nine-mile segment of the road. This is one of the most popular areas on the southern desert for off-road vehicle use.

Paving Completed

The section of road from the Ben Hulse Highway (Brawley to Palo Verde) south to Interstate 8 (known locally as the Ogilby Road) has been re-aligned to the east and paved. This gives good access to the Cargo Muchacho Mountains, Tumco Ghost Town, Indian Pass Dumortierite and several palm wood deposits. It also provides a fast, paved route from Blythe south to Interstate 8.

NEVADA

Bottle Buffs

Some dandy old bottles were dug at the Tonopah dump during the Memorial holiday by members of the Los Angeles Historical and San Diego Antique Bottle Clubs. It just goes to show that even though there has been lots of digging the old dump still contains some good bottles.

It isn't always necessary to dig for old bottles. Jerry Strong of *Desert*, had a beautiful surface find of a purple flask in the same area.

Esmeralda County, Queen Obsidian

A new and pleasant addition to this excellent collecting area is a pond and wild pasture located near the highway. Young shade trees have also been planted—by whom is the mystery. However, their efforts will be appreciated by the local wildlife, as well as visitors. Fine specimens of obsidian and a considerable number of Indian artifacts have recently been found.

Mary Frances Strong

Canon Rio de



The Mojave River flows through the Canon Rio de Las Animas, one of the most picturesque recreational areas in California's Mojave Desert.

HIDDEN AMONG the barren recesses of the Cady Mountains deep within the great, hot heart of southern California's Mojave Desert, lies the boldly beautiful Canon Rio de Las Animas. It is a region of spectacular geologic formations which seems destined to become one of the desert's most popular recreational sites.

The Canyon offers the visitor excellent gem and mineral specimens for the taking; a score of narrow defiles to explore; rugged hills and sandy washes to give trail bikes, dune buggies and 4WDs a work out; wildlife to observe; a myriad of subjects for the photographer's lenses and, unbelievable as it may seem in this arid land, a river ambling through it.

Unusual as the Canyon is, its sculptor, the Mojave River, is even more so. Born in the higher slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, the river quickly descends to the desert floor and, for the most part, flows underground along a northerly course.

Surfacing as it enters Canon Rio de Las Animas, the river forms a shallow pond behind a flood control dike. It then flows along the surface for a mile or two before going underground to its final destiny in a sandy wasteland at the eastern end of the canyon — properly called the Mojave River Sink.

Though the river is generally small and placid, it can, at times, show another face. When it does, we see in frightening sequence just how this major canyon was formed.

In February 1969, a succession of storms dropped heavy precipitation on the desert and surrounding mountains. The Mojave River began to rise and soon was a raging torrent nearly a quarter of a mile wide and many feet deep. Entire trees were ripped from its peacetime shores, then carried along and tossed around as if they were matchsticks.

This mighty force of water entered the Canyon and spread almost wall to wall. Roads were washed out, fine stands of mesquite and willow uprooted, vast

Las Animas

by Mary Frances Strong

Photography by Jerry Strong

gravel beds redistributed and several miles of railroad track carried away. When the water receded, the entire region had a new, bare look! The awesome force of debris-laden running water had been more destructive than a hundred giant earth-movers as it widened and deepened the canyon.

A good, graded road now gives access to the Canyon which, until recent years, was visited mainly by only the adventurous. The Bureau of Land Management has built a fine campground in a forest of mesquite. Each site is well-spaced to give reasonable privacy. Shade shelters, stoves and tables are provided. Water is available from underground storage via an old-fashioned pump.

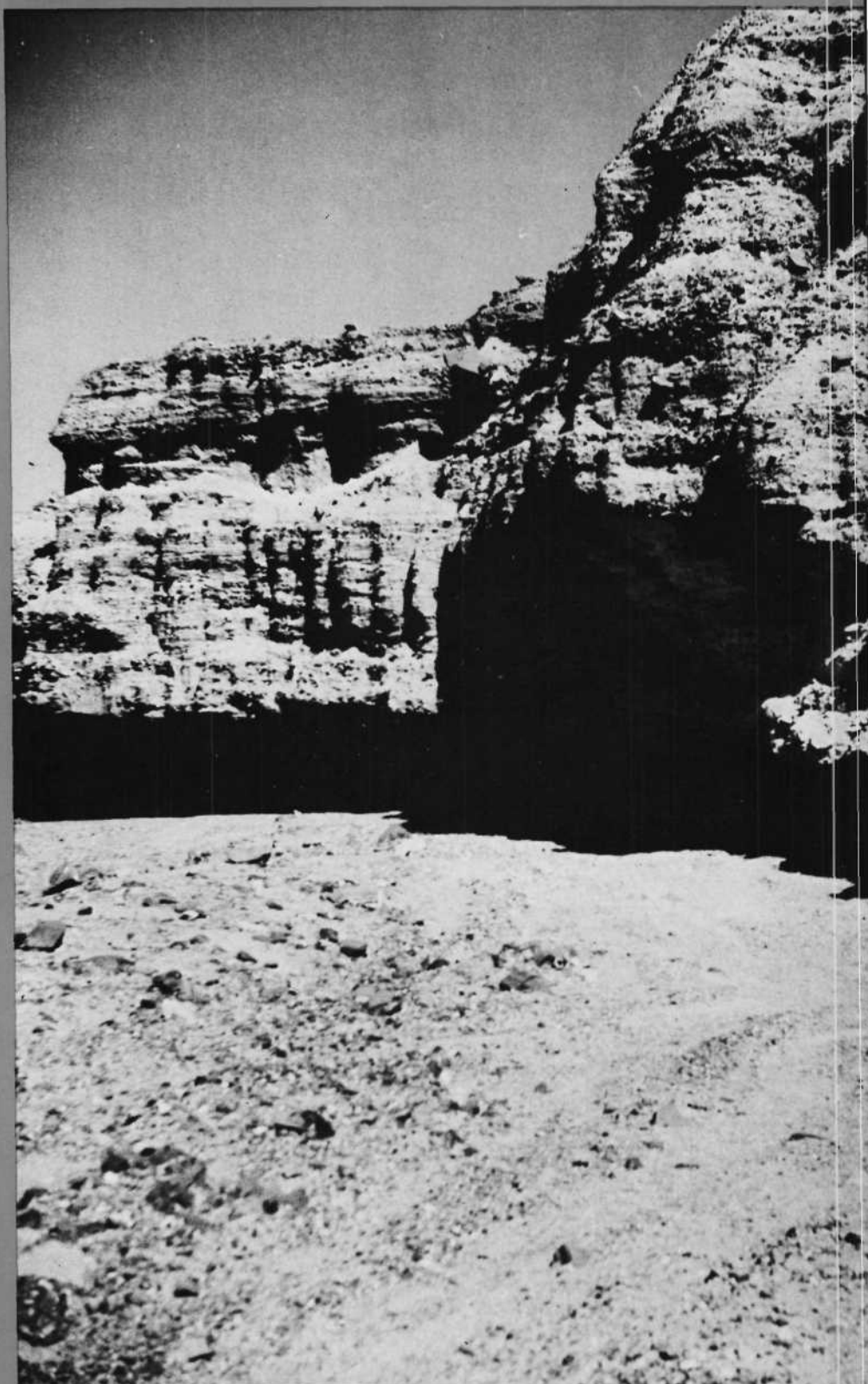
Canon Rio de Las Animas is under "checkerboard ownership"—public (B. L.M.) and private (railroad). The main canyon, Pyramid Canyon and the country east, west and north of the campground may be freely explored. The public land is open to off-road-vehicle use (O.R.V.). However, at the present time, all desert areas are under re-evaluation and each will be eventually placed in one of three categories: open, restricted or closed.

Southeast of the campground is Union Pacific Railroad's Afton Siding. Their roads (including the main one along the tracks) are private and posted as such. DO NOT TRESPASS.

The local superintendent generously granted us unrestricted access during our recent visit. I feel sure permission will be given to others as long as the roads are used only to reach public lands. Any damage to them by O.R.V.s will quickly close the access to several gem fields and picturesque side canyons.

For many years only 4WD vehicles could negotiate the trip through the main canyon from Afton Siding to Cru-cero and "runs" were held annually. The natural obstacles were many and tested the skill of the drivers and the stamina of their machines.

If permission is obtained, stock cars may easily travel the good dirt road along



Fast-moving water continues to undercut the sedimentary formations as it widens Flat Bottom Wash. Only public land is open to off-road use.

the railroad tracks. The reward will be a kaleidoscope of vertical cliffs with pin-nacled columns of red and buff-colored conglomerates often capped by black lava flows. The entire area is highly photo-genic and the early morning or late after-noon hours provide the best contrast for spectacular shots.

Travel through the Canyon dates back to prehistoric time when a main Indian trail led from the Colorado River to the coastal plain — now the Los Angeles Basin. Later, the Mojave Indians used the route regularly on trading trips to the San Gabriel Mission.

The first white man to cross the Great Mojave Desert was Padre Francisco Garces in the spring of 1776. On foot, and accompanied only by Indian guides, he made a remarkable, 200-mile journey through a vast and unknown land via the old Indian trail—a feat few men would attempt today.

Jedediah Smith and Kit Carson each journeyed through the Canyon during their explorations in the early 1800s. In 1844, the John Fremont party crossed the Tehachapi Mountains and followed an eastward route along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Fremont wrote in his diary, "We have struck the great object of our search—the Spanish Trail."

The former Indian trail's place in history was secured, as it had become a section of the famed trail from Santa Fe,

There are many shaded overnight camping sites in the Bureau of Land Management campgrounds.

New Mexico to California. It was also Fremont who recorded, "The river is called the Rio de Las Animas" (mean-ing River of Souls). Today, we find numerous corruptions of historical names. In this case the eloquent Spanish name has been dropped in favor of the rather harsh and simple "Afton Canyon."

During the next half-century, the Canyon's walls vibrated to the rumblings of wagon wheels and profane shouts of drivers as they urged their straining mules or horses through the treacherous sands. As late as 1918, a few vestiges of

the old wagon road could still be seen.

South of the railroad tracks several side-canyons offer challenging rides and excellent gem collecting. One which we call "Flat-Botton Wash" is reached by going under the railroad tracks just over a tenth of a mile beyond Afton Siding (permission is needed to cross over rail-road property) and turning immediately left (east), then right (see map). The canyon is narrow at its entrance, then opens into a wide, flat-bottomed wash rising skyward on both sides. Their erosional patterns resemble Utah's Can-yonlands Country without the vivid coloring.

We checked the steep, talus slopes at various intervals and found colorful agate and jasp-agate specimens at every stop.

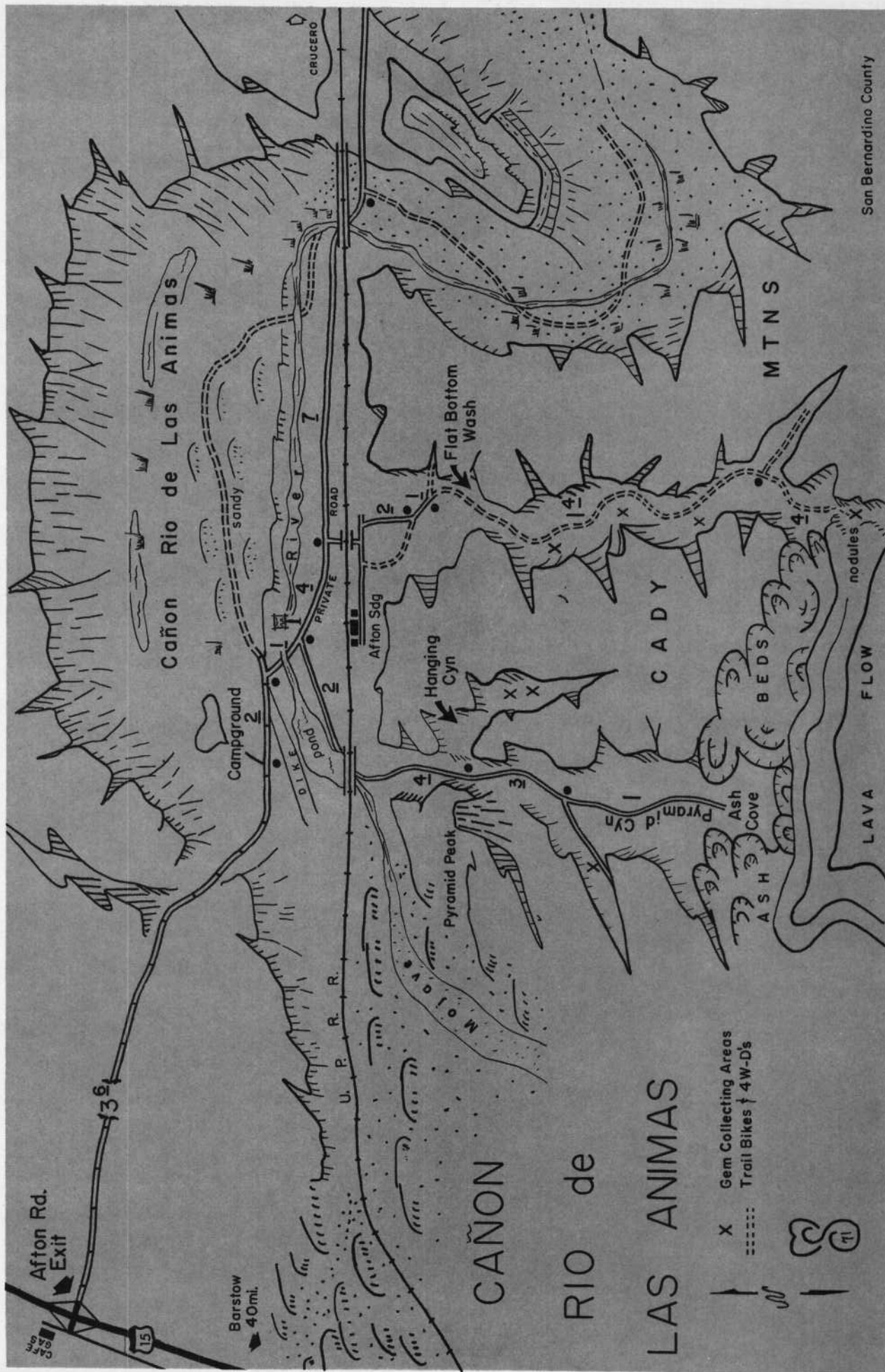
The canyon branches 1.4 miles from its entrance and narrows abruptly as it winds through colorful beds of volcanic ash and lava flows. We took the right branch and landed in a cul-de-sac between the lava and ash.

Exploring on foot, we followed up a narrow defile and located a large outcrop of vesicular basalt studded with amygdalae of agate. Literally hundreds of them have weathered out and form small talus slopes. They are of good quality and the patterns include moss, picture, fortification and cloud-like effects in a fine variety of colors. The "skins" are dark-green and size ranges from very tiny up to a couple of inches in length. Beautiful cabochons may be cut from them.

continued



Author's camper is parked near entrance to Hanging Canyon on left. Pyramid Peak is in background.



This general area warrants further explorations, as the northern Cady Mountains seem to have a never-ending source of good cutting material.

The entrance to Pyramid Canyon lies just south of the campground where the B.L.M. flood control dike has caused the Mojave River to form a shallow pond. It may be reached by crossing the river (see map), then bearing west along tracks leading to the bridge. A section of the pond must be forded. Exercise caution. It is generally quite shallow in the fall, but this will quickly change

following a major storm.

There is fair collecting in the upper regions of Pyramid Canyon. The road ends in Ash Cove, 1.7 miles from the railroad bridge.

The best cutting material will be found in Hanging Canyon where entry is only by "shank's mare." The entrance to this canyon is reached by climbing up a wash-cut cliff east (left) of the road, .4 of a mile south of the railroad. It cannot be seen from the road in Pyramid Canyon. However, watch for Pyramid Peak as Hanging Canyon lies just a little

north of it on the east.

The material in Hanging Canyon is called "Navajo Agate" as it contains the hues so often associated with the Navajo Country—misty yellow, warm blue and lavender, flame red, deep maroon and shades of brown. It is without definite pattern but the swirls and blending of colors make very attractive and unusual cabochons. Paisley agate (lavender), red plume, green and yellow jasper, small chalcedony nodules and an occasional quartz crystal may also be found here.

Climb the steep alluvial slopes and explore the upper end of the canyon. There has been considerable collecting but erosion continues to uncover new supplies.

We have barely touched on the many recreational opportunities in the Canon Rio de Las Animas. There are old mines to explore and numerous trails and canyons to follow on the northern flanks. We have never failed to find "something new" on every trip—and there have been many.

It always seems to me as if we are leaving the modern world and stepping back into history when we turn off the freeway and head down the long slope toward the Canyon. We may be pulling our covered wagon with an iron mule; but we can enjoy the same country, which remains today almost as wild and primitive as when the first wagons rolled through. We wonder at the courage and admire the fortitude of the sturdy men and women who traveled the Old Spanish Trail more than a hundred years before us. □



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THE LEGEND OF LOLA

by Marion Holbrook

WHEN LOLA Montez arrived in San Francisco in May of 1853, the entire populace hoped to get a glimpse of this "notorious" woman. Theatre audiences clamored for seats for her first night's performance. European travelers had returned to the States with gossip about this tempestuous girl's first marriage at the age of fifteen, her torrid romance with Liszt, and her involvement with Ludwig I of Bavaria and subsequent banishment from that country.

How much is fancy, and how much is fact, of the innumerable stories written about the escapades of the famous actress of the 1800s? Was she truly the mistress of King Ludwig, who bestowed upon her the title, Countess of Landsfeld—or his political advisor? Had she horsewhipped harsh critics—or was that planned publicity? Did she, at age thirty, knowingly contract a bigamous marriage?

Some truths are certain. She was one of the most beautiful women of her time. She was noted for her generosity. She loved children and delighted in their company, as is evidenced by the time she spent with young Lotta Crabtree teaching her to sing and dance, thus launching this

enchanted child upon a distinguished career.

San Franciscans have always loved the theatre and theatrical personalities. They loved Lola. Though her acting was mediocre, and the plays she presented had tedious plots, her beauty, sex appeal and character intrigued them. Aware dull plays could not keep a theatre filled, a San Francisco notable, Sam Brannan, suggested she have Patrick Hurdy Hull, editor of *The Whig*, write a lively play for her. Pat's play had a dance number in it called the Spider Dance.

It took San Francisco by storm and became the most important part of her repertoire. In it she played the part of a young peasant girl who discovers a spider under her skirt. She whirled about, shaking her skirts (already shockingly short to women who wore theirs about their ankles), raising them higher as she stamped on the supposed insect. Some audiences took great pleasure in her actions; others were stunned.

Off stage, Lola was constantly surrounded. She dressed quietly, usually in black, but was extremely vivacious, a witty conversationalist, and though hot



tempered at times, could be extremely charming when she chose. Described often as being dark eyed and raven-haired, actually her hair, curling back from her face, was bronze with dark shadows and her eyes deep blue. She soon became the "toast of the town," and was entertained lavishly.

On July 3, 1853, the morning she was to leave for a Sacramento engagement, she surprised the entire community by marrying Patrick Hull at Mission Dolores. The alliance proved to be a stormy one.

A rival company in San Francisco presented several burlesques of Lola's performances. The satirical acts, plus the hilarity with which they were received, rankled. As a result, at her Sacramento opening, when someone in the audience laughed, Lola became enraged and walked off the stage. The patrons demanded their money back.

Later, a group gathered under her hotel windows, hooted and gave catcalls. The next evening Lola apologized to the theatre audience in a very sweet speech, closing with, "It was unworthy of me, ladies and gentlemen. If you wish me to go on with my dances, you have only to

say the word." The applause was tremendous!

When Lola lived in Paris she learned of the gold strike in California and invested in Empire Mine stock. Expressing a desire to see the mine in Grass Valley, an engagement was arranged. The miners, flocking in from the diggings, and long hungry for the sight of a beautiful woman, were enchanted with the captivating dancer. At that time, the population of Grass Valley was about 1600, with but 200 women who had come to join their husbands.

Though well received, her engagement didn't last long. As elsewhere, her ability was too slight to hold audiences long enthralled. But she astonished her husband by announcing she had fallen in love with the small town, in its beautiful setting, and intended to remain there. As the majority of dwellings were shanties and tin-roofed shacks, they were fortunate in finding a house to purchase. Lola threw herself into the task of remodeling, adding a touch of elegance to the small cottage.

When Patrick learned Lola had written Ludwig asking that her cherished posses-

sions be sent from her little mansion in Munich, which Ludwig had continued to maintain for her, a violent quarrel ensued. Lola declared, "I love him as I would love my father, if I had one. I am not ashamed of my love for him."

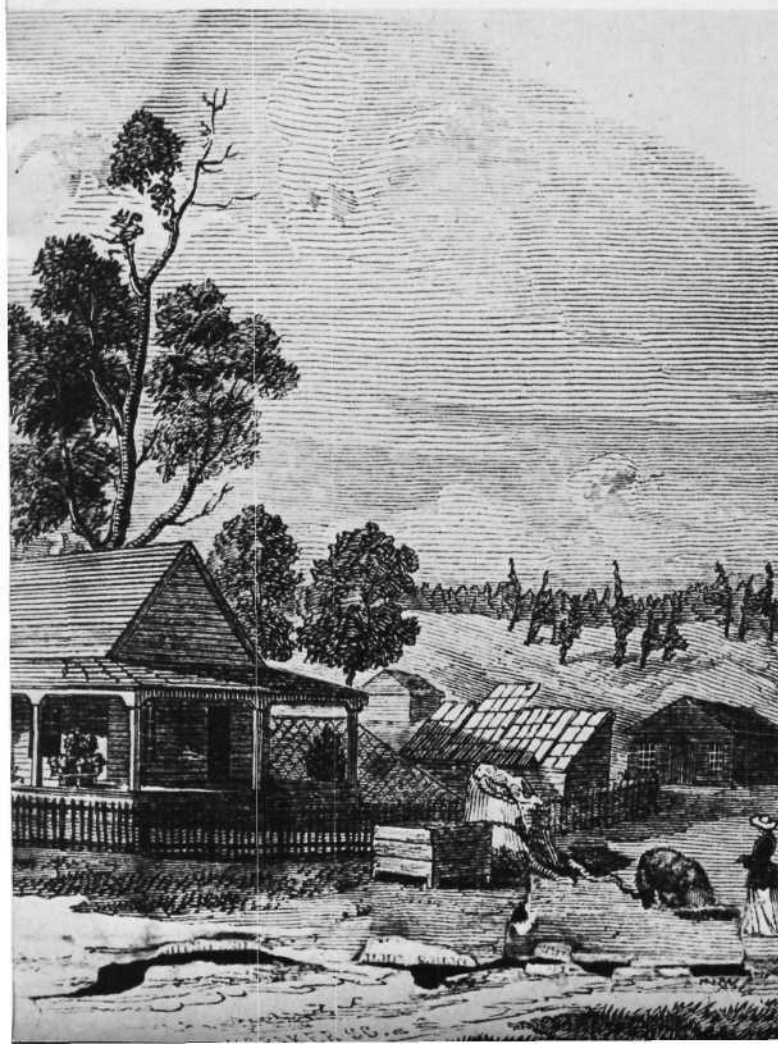
A few months later, Queen Therese died and the aged King sent an agent to Grass Valley with a proposal of marriage. Reports of her many quarrels with Hull had led to rumors of divorce. The proposal was the cause of another altercation, causing the final break with Hull.

Lola stayed on in Grass Valley for another year and a half. Her exquisitely furnished home became a mecca for the liveliest young men of the town, as well as distinguished visitors.

Whether she tired of the simple life, or financial problems caused Lola's return to the stage, is a matter of conjecture. Surely her stay in Grass Valley was the happiest and most tranquil time in her life. This woman, pictured as being fiery, haughty, and guilty of scandalous behavior, proved to be good natured and helpful. She was accepted and liked by the women of the little mining village. Wearing calico, the Countess worked in her garden. She prepared delicacies for her sick neighbors. The children, passing by on their way to school, were invited to visit and enjoy Lola's many unusual pets, including a trained bear. The child dearest to Lola was little Lotta Crabtree.

After Lola left Grass Valley, she continued to make headlines. Returning home from an unsuccessful tour in Australia, her agent, with whom her name had been linked, was lost overboard. It marked the beginning of bad luck; an attempt to become a lecturer met with failure, a stroke caused paralysis, followed by death at age forty-two. As with all the incidents in her life, there are many legends about her death and the circumstances surrounding it. Some claim this once vivid woman, used to a life of luxury, died in poverty in a mean tenement room, duped into turning over her money to someone who promised to care for her.

Lola, who declared herself "always notorious, never famous," had a mountain named in her honor. Mount Lola stands guard over the small town whose residents still proudly point out the cottage where she once resided. Long live the Countess of Landsfeld, the irrepressible Lola! □



Lola Montez residence in Grass Valley as it appeared when she bought the home. It is still standing.



*The
"fool's gold"
that turned
out to be
real gold—
too late!*

TOO %?*/! GOOD!

by Ken Marquiss

THE OLD guys who added to our western vernacular the twin truisms of "gold is where you find it" and "trust only your own assays," sure weren't blowing bubbles in the wind. They learned the hard way!

The "getting burned" fence between fool's gold and kosher gold is often rickety, indeed; and gold suspicion is well founded, for trickery and/or greed-folly historically reaches its full bloom whenever the yellow metal is involved.

The early Virginia colonists are reported to have enthusiastically loaded a ship with fool's gold for transport to

England as one of their first prime projects—with disastrous results to certain leaders.

In the old West, phony ore samples and assays, Barnum types selling mining stocks, and carnival grifters with shell games developed a good and proper wariness into our old time cultural heritage.

So what happened in this case is entirely understandable—it was natural suspicion that backfired! The goofy husk of circumstances surrounding the events made the gaudy stuff just too good to take seriously.

If somebody mentions a "lost mine"

we immediately conjure up ideas of "once-upon-a-time, long, long ago;" a bearded, tobacco-chewing burro-prodder, warpath Indians, thirst, or evil strangers, and a deathbed map!

About ten years ago a white-haired, precise speaking "eastern type" marched into The Family Store (in copper and ranch country) to hock a gun to buy grub, supplies, and gas for his battered old jalopy.

He left for safe keeping with the store owner a big salt sack and a section of a four-inch diameter cardboard mailing tube full of yellow-glittering heavy rock (tied in dirty canvas) with the admonition to "guard it well, old chap, for it's extremely rich gold ore, you know, and I shall return within the fortnight!"

Who is to blame the good natured, non-mining store owner for thinking anything but "Yukk! what a business—now it's ding-a-lings and fool's gold!"?

About five years ago I was over in eastern Nevada on one of my perennial prospecting and ghost town haunting trips. I needed supplies, wanted to try out a newly figured, sure-fire keno marking system in a small gambling joint; and was hunting some historical information. So I dropped anchor for a couple of days in the bustling little city of Ely.

The bouncing ball dealer never even smiled during the few minutes needed to promptly shoot down my keno brainstorm hopes, so I had plenty of time left to pump my old friend (and then state senator), Casey Fisher, for historical dope.

For years Casey has been a Nevada history buff, and is probably the leading authority on the western desert section of the first transcontinental telegraph line that ended the Pony Express. Browsing through his wonderful personal collection of old relics, yellowed papers and dim photographs is a rare treat he generously shares with friends. (He actually has had to use reprints of old mail order catalogs to identify some of his more unusual items—like a whiskey cork drying press!)

*Mike and Bert
stand at the back entrance
to the Family Store,
where fortune
came walking in—
and was thrown
out with the trash!*

So I was stomping in the big corral, and eventually dug up the information I wanted.

By that time it was the thirsty part of the afternoon, and Casey suggested a stroll up the main street as he wanted to see what I thought of "something up at the hangout."

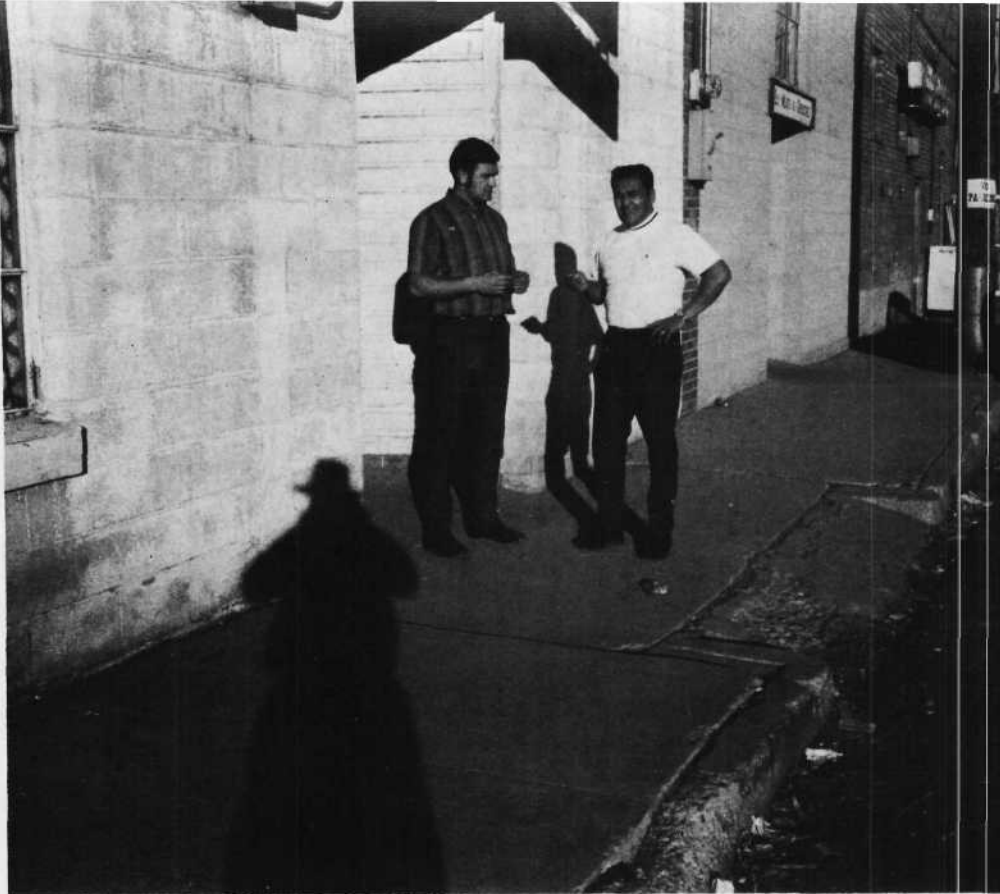
The sign over the door proclaimed it as "The Family Store." Inside, I found that—in addition to booze—they sold just about everything from sporting goods to groceries "except furniture and diapers." Because of the milk and oatmeal actually available, I suppose the establishment name was justified; in Nevada tongue-in-cheek fashion.

As soon as Casey introduced me to the two genial owners I understood why it was the local hangout, and why, as Casey said, "if you want to meet somebody, but don't know exactly where he is, this is a damn good place to start to hunt."

The "something" Casey wanted me to see was a nut-sized lump of rock used as a paper weight on the cash register shelf consisting of white quartz laced with hunks of yellow metallic gold. It made me start to drool as soon as I saw it.

The owners were at first obviously cagey about discussing the rock, but finally, after they were convinced I was a friend of Casey, they told me the ore "with a lot more" had been brought in by an old man the previous fall about snow time. The finder had gone back to his hole to get some more ore, had said he would return soon, but hadn't showed up.

I certainly wanted a chance to buy in on THAT kind of ore if at all possible, and after a lot of talk they finally prom-



ised to put my name and phone number on file, and call me collect the minute the old man returned.

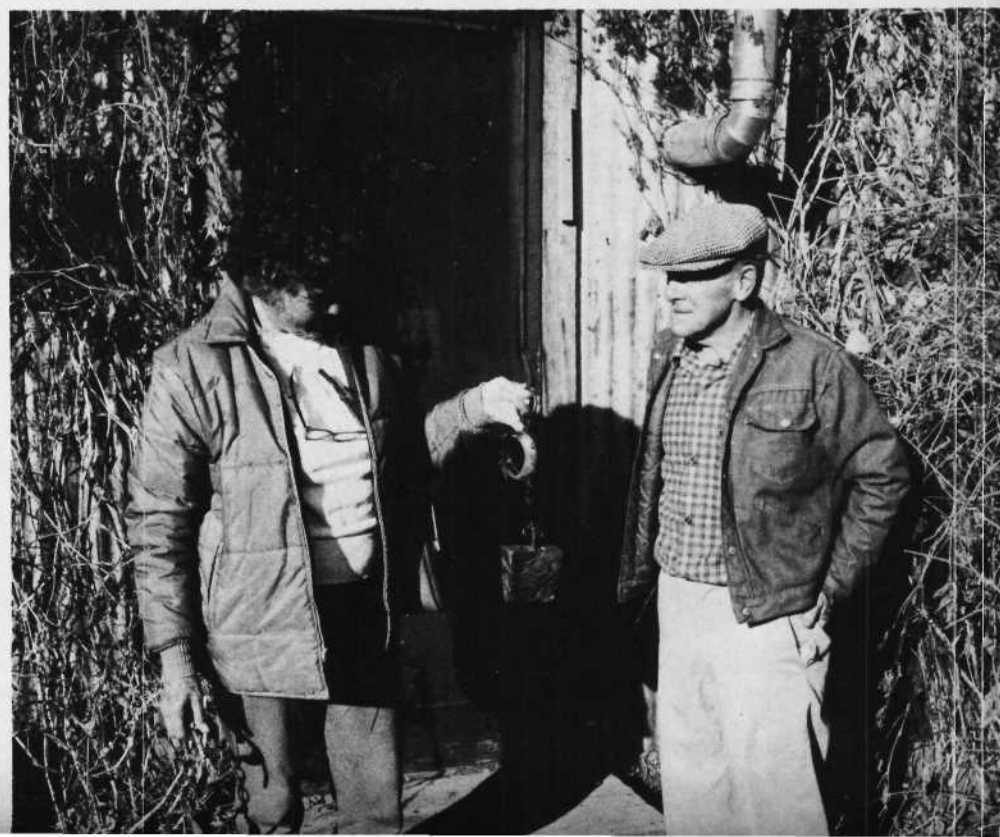
And there the matter rested for five years . . . while I WAITED . . . and waited . . . and waited . . .

On the way to Utah last fall, I stopped in Ely with fire in my eye, to find out why I had never been called about the gold deal. The two owners of the Family

Store, Bert Cooper and Mike Lemich, were both in—and they had a simple and potent answer. The old man had just never come back!

And, as Bert said, "What's more, he was at least 70 when he was in here, so I don't think he is ever coming back!"

We kicked the situation around for a while and since it looked like the old man would never return, they ruefully



*Casey Fisher,
Nevada history buff and
collector, shows author's wife
an old insulator
from the first
transcontinental
telegraph line.*

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agreed to let me tell the story—on condition I made it plain they have no map, samples or "inside information" for sale.

The Family Store extends from the main street to the back alley — and as there is ample parking on the alley side, much of the foot traffic comes in the back door.

As Bert tells it, he first saw the old man as he stamped the mud off his boots at that door. He wore an old blue-black mackinaw, a wide brimmed, black felt "Montana" hat and high laced boots "like they used to wear 30 years ago." His snow white hair made him look old, but he was the tough, wiry kind—at least the bundle and rifle he was carrying didn't seem to burden him.

He said he had been out prospecting, had found a rich gold mine, and now needed \$40.00 for gas and grub to return to the deposit "to load the back end of my car with \$20,000 worth of gold rock." He pulled a fist-size yellow-spangled cobble out of a mackinaw pocket to illustrate. So could Bert let him have \$40.00 on his rifle? The gun was an old Savage 300, but in very good condition, and it had a shiny new K4x scope mounted on it. The combination could easily sell for \$75.00.

Bert told him he wasn't in the hock shop business, but he would give him \$60.00 for the gun and scope, if he wanted to sell it.

The prospector became quite huffy and said "I didn't ask you for \$60.00—the price is \$40.00 cash sale, take it or leave it!" He further stipulated that \$40.00 was all that separated him from millionaire's row two weeks away; and that if Bert could subsequently sell the gun at "a handsome profit, then fine and dandy!"

Trying to mollify the old man, Bert explained that the gun was worth more than forty bucks and he just didn't want to gyp anybody.

The old man cooled down right away, apologized, and then came up with another off-beat request. Since Bert was that honest, how about storing his two containers of "gold ore" in a safe place until he came back from his prospect hole in a couple of weeks?

Mike (who thought the stuff was fool's gold, too) suggested that the rock would be quite safe up on a high shelf behind some bottle containers in the back room and the old man seemed gratefully satisfied. He insisted that Bert take the

yellow spotted cobble as a souvenir, but Bert said that it was "too much of a gift", so the prospector fished a smaller sample out of another pocket. As there was no room in the salt rack or the mailing tube for the big hunk of rock, the old man said to just stack it on top of them on the shelf.

So the heavy containers were stored in the back room, money changed hands, and the old man stamped out into the cold.

Shortly thereafter the rifle was cleaned and hung on the "for sale" rack; and Mike and Bert forgot all about the matter in the following days of getting ready for the busy Christmas season.

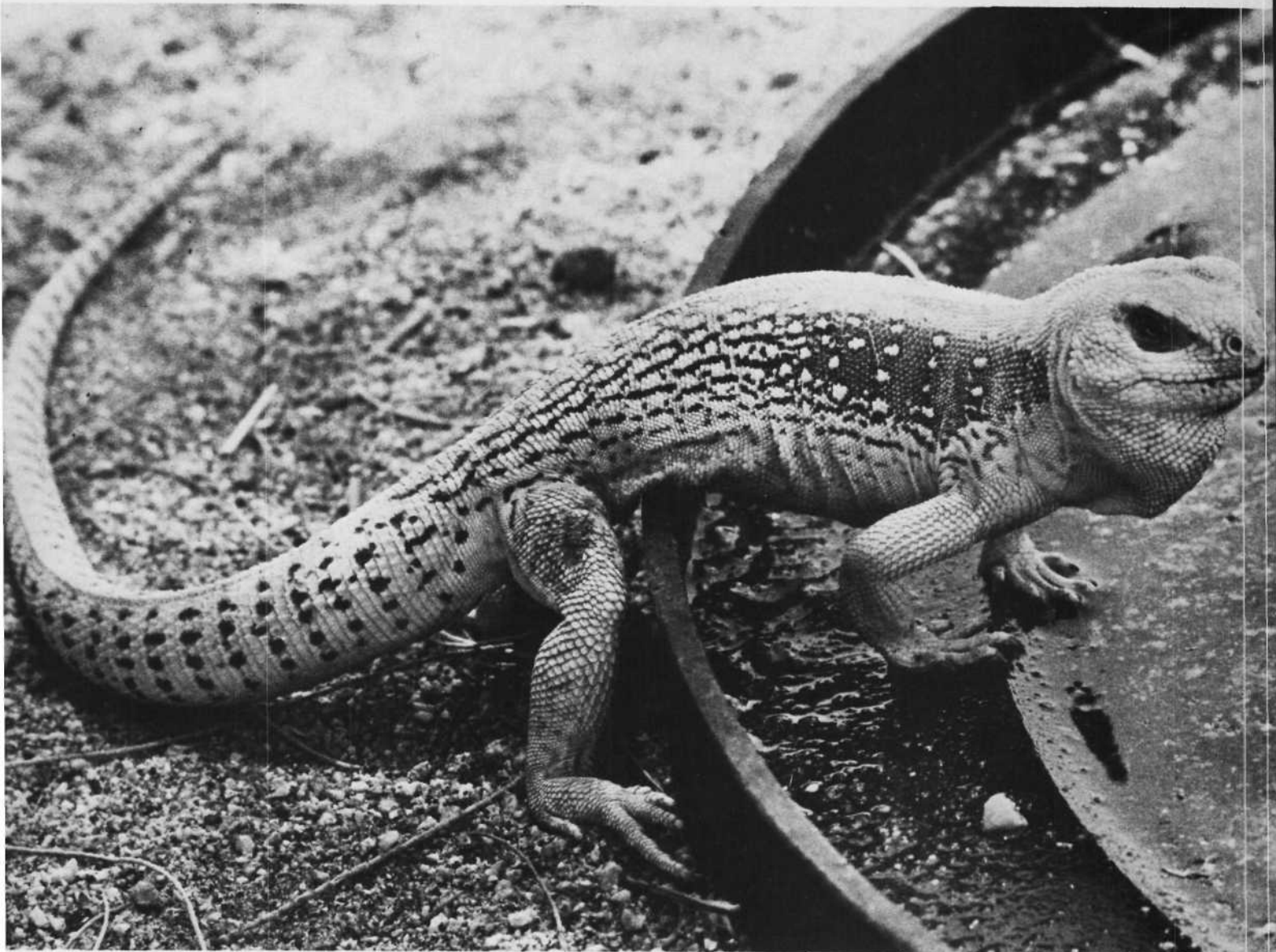
Winter came and went; and the "gold horde" (as they laughingly referred to it) was still up on the back room shelf when the first warm days arrived and the snow had melted. That was when Bert decided it was high time for spring cleaning at the Family Store.

The winter's accumulation of junk was pointed out to the cleanup man, and the sack and tube of "gold ore" joined the old advertising displays, boxes of bottle caps, bundles of cardboard destined for the city dump. The only piece of ore that escaped the store cleanup was the small gift rock which, because of its handy size and weight, was holding down some notes and order carbons on the cash register shelf.

Many weeks later it was still doing paper weight duty when Les Green, an engineer for the nearby Kennecott Copper Corporation plant, saw the rock and promptly started asking embarrassing questions. Only then did Bert and Mike, with sinking hearts, realize what a treasure trove they had thrown away!

Desperately they tried to remember details of what the old prospector had told them; but all they could recall was that the location was about 100 miles from Ely. (Mike thinks north, but Bert had the idea it was southeast!) They both agreed that the old man said his bonanza was "in a crevice, away up on the big, flat side of a high mountain."

As Casey Fisher said, there are a couple dozen such places within a hundred-mile radius of Ely, and the chances of finding it would be like mucking through the Ely dump for a salt sack and cardboard tube—the ones full of jewelry rock that went out with the trash because it looked "just too darned good!" □



Desert Life

by Hans Baerwald

During the hot summer months people stay inside and even most lizards seek cool shade. Not so the desert iguana who is a "cool character" as he basks in the summer sun. But even Mr. Iguana takes time out for a cool dip as shown in this close-up by Hans Baerwald.



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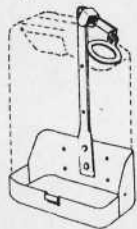
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Rambling on Rocks

by
**Glenn
and Martha Vargas**

GEMS:

Precious versus Semi-precious

ON MANY occasions, when discussing a certain gem, we are asked if it is precious or semi-precious. We know of no tight definition for either, and thus do not like or use the terms. If we go to the dictionary to get the meaning of precious, we find that it denotes something of great price or value, costly, or highly esteemed. Where the "semi-" of semi-precious would fit here, we are at a loss to understand.

At one time there was a list of the precious gems. These were diamond, emerald, sapphire, ruby and pearl. As a general rule, each of these can be costly, valuable and highly esteemed. It is assumed that all other gems do not fit here, but the semi prefix was attached to give them some sort of status. This is all well and good, but there are gems other than "precious" that will match or exceed the prices of members of the elite group. Also, some of the colors of sapphire are certainly not valuable. If this is confusing, you are not alone; many other people are also confused.

To try to sift order out of the chaos, we might list the attributes of these gems that give them their value. To most people, diamond is at the top of the list, but diamond is not rare. It has an artificial high price based upon a tightly controlled market. If we discount this artificiality, it has a number of excellent attributes of its own. It is the hardest of the gems, and will wear well. Its greatest attribute

is its brilliance. This is the result of two characteristics: first, it has the ability of gathering and bending (refraction) much light and thus sends great flashes of light to the eye. Second, it is able to break (disperse) light into the colors of the spectrum. These three—great hardness, refraction, and dispersion—are found in the same quantities in no other mineral. Diamond usually does not have beautiful colors, thus these three characteristics are in the forefront.

If we look at ruby and sapphire, we find that they are color varieties of the mineral known as corundum. To be ruby, it must be red, not pink. All other colors are known as sapphire. We are certain, however, that when sapphire was placed on the list, only the fine blue was in mind. The most sought after of sapphire is known as Kashmir blue and is about as rare as ruby. There are other colors of blue sapphire also, but they are not as costly. Sapphire is also pink, yellow, green and colorless, but these have only moderate value. Here we have two gems that are nearly as hard as diamond, and will wear well. Diamond is rated as ten on a scale of hardness, and corundum as nine. Both ruby and sapphire have a brilliance much less than diamond, and no dispersion. Each is ordinarily a beautiful color that sets them apart. Sapphires are about as rare as diamond, and ruby is very rare.

When we come to emerald, we find a real paradox. It is a green color variety of beryl. Aquamarine is also beryl. The beautiful green color, and an extreme rarity are really the only attributes of emerald. It has poor brilliance, and no dispersion. If it did have either, they would undoubtedly not be noticeable as emerald is almost invariably flawed. These flaws are so common they are referred to as "gardens" of inclusions. Many gem dealers would like to make prospective buyers think that these are an asset. Here is a rare gem, usually flawed, of poor brilliance, with a hardness of only 7½ to 8, but is much sought after. The fine green color, matched by no other gem, sometimes makes it as valuable as a diamond.

The last of the list is pearl. It is never cut into a gem, but is produced as such by the oyster. Pearls appear in a wide variety of colors, each with an iridescence that makes them desirable. Pearls of any reasonable size are rare, and these two situations give them value.

The above gems are imposing, and their characteristics seemingly bear out their place on a separate list. There are, however, some other gems that should also be considered. The mineral chrysoberyl (hardness 8½) has two interesting varieties. One that is extremely rare is alexandrite, showing green color in sunlight, and a violet in artificial light. A fine colored, flawless alexandrite will nearly always outprice a diamond of equal size.

Cat's-eye is a variety of chrysoberyl that is filled with parallel needle-like inclusions. When this is correctly cut into a domed gem, the light reflects off of these many needles allowing a band of light to move across the gem when it is moved. They are usually yellow, and in combination with the band of light, they resemble the eye of a cat. A good cat's-eye gem will bring extremely high prices, easily outclassing pearl and sapphire, and seriously threatening the others.

Spinel, with a hardness of 8, appears in many colors, one of which is deep red. This red is so near that of ruby, that it has been mistaken for and sold as ruby. Two of the old stones in the British crown jewels are excellent red spinels that for many years were thought to be rubies.

We could go down the list of gems and mention many that their color variety and rarity should make them highly desirable. To name a few: the deep fine blue of aquamarine, the royal purple of amethyst, the fine color and brilliance of zircon, the red-orange of imperial topaz, the pleasing yellowish-green color and good brilliance of peridot, all make fine gems. Two others should be mentioned, even though they are cut as dome-shaped gems; imperial (brilliant green) jade, and precious opal. The value of fine imperial jade will rival that of any gem, bar none, and an opal that blazes with color certainly is not far behind.

There are many of our personal favorites that we lack space to mention. Many others also prefer them, regardless of price. In the end, price is a very artificial criteria, in that it can be controlled by a few. To us, it all seems to revolve around what the gem has to offer the person who wants it. If we go to the dictionary for the definition of the word gem, we find: a precious stone, any perfect or rare object, a jewel. We prefer to call them all gems! □

Calendar of Western Events

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, GEM & MINERAL SHOW, "The Show That Shows How" sponsored by the Mother Lode Mineralites, Fairgrounds, Auburn, Calif. Free admission. Write J. F. Lambert, 191 S. McDaniel Dr., Auburn, Calif. 95603. g

OCTOBER 2 & 3, FESTIVAL OF GEMS sponsored by the East Bay Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 1947 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California.

OCTOBER 2 & 3, WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP TREASURE HUNT, Fourth Annual Convention of the Prospectors Club of Southern California, Galileo Park, California City, California (near Mojave). Metal detectors contests, gold panning, exhibits, booths, childrens' activities. Public invited either as competitors or spectators. Write Jim Carmichael, 25930 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, Calif. 90717.

OCTOBER 2 & 3, JEWELS FROM LAND AND SEA sponsored by East Bay Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, Calif

OCTOBER 2 & 3, HARVEST OF GEMS sponsored by the Centinela Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Hawthorne Memorial Center, Inglewood, Calif. Free parking and admission.

OCTOBER 7-17, FRESNO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY'S 20th annual show, Fresno District Fairgrounds, Fresno, California.

OCTOBER 9 & 10, HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK SAFARI, Blanding, Utah. Two-day 4WD trip retracing trail used by Mormons who crossed the Colorado and settled San Juan County. For information write San Juan County Tourist and Publicity Council, P. O. Box 425, Monticello, Utah 84535.

OCTOBER 10, FAMOUS LONDON BRIDGE opened to the public, Lake Havasu City, Arizona. Brought from London, bridge will be dedicated along with English Village.

OCTOBER 10, SACRAMENTO DIGGERS MINERAL SOCIETY'S Rock Swap and Fun Day, Farmers Market, 30th and S Streets, Sacramento, Calif. Tailgaters welcome.

OCTOBER 16 & 17, WHITTIER GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S 22nd Annual Gem Show, Palm Park Youth Center, 5703 N. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif. Free admission and parking. Write P.O. Box 66, Whittier, California.

OCTOBER 23 & 24, LONG BEACH GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY's annual free show, Wardlow Park Club House, 3457 Stanbridge Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Lapidary, booths, dealers, etc. Write P. O. Box 4082, Long Beach, Calif.

OCTOBER 23 & 24, CIRCUS OF GEMS sponsored by LERC Rockcrafters, LERC Building, 2814 Empire Ave., Burbank, Calif. Faceting, displays, Arrowhead making, carving, etc. Free admission and parking. Write 2814 Empire Avenue, Burbank, Calif.

OCTOBER 23 & 22, ANTIQUE BOTTLE SHOW & SALE, Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo, Glendale, Calif. Admission 50 cents, under 12 free. Write P. O. Box 60762, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, Calif. 90060.

OCTOBER 23 & 24, SANTA MARIA GEM-BOREE sponsored by Santa Maria Gem and Mineral Society, Santa Maria (Calif.) Fairgrounds. Displays, dealers, rock swap, etc.

OCTOBER 23 - 25, TWELFTH ANNUAL SPACE FAIR, Point Mugu, Calif. "America's Biggest Air Show" is held at 10:30 A.M. and 3 P.M. each day. Also carnival and midway and U. S. Navy exhibits.

OCTOBER 30 & 31, NINTH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO COUNTY ROCKHOUND GEM-BOREE sponsored by the Council of the San Diego County Gem & Mineral Societies, Scottish Rite Masonic Memorial Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, Calif. Large and excellent annual event.

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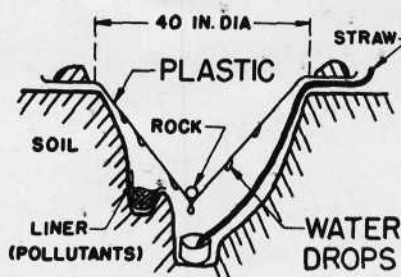
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Letters to the Editor

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Field Trip Editor . . .

I am not in the habit of writing letters, but I would like you to run a picture of your field trip editor, Mary Frances Strong. All we ever get to see is her husband.

T. MOORE,
Oatman, Arizona.

Editor's Note: Several other readers have requested a photograph of Mary Frances, so here it is. The reason her husband is shown in many of the photographs is that he is usually the only model available during their back country trips. The following letter is typical of the many received concerning trips by the Strong's.

Turtle Mountains . .

Our compliments to the authors of *Touring the Turtles* (Feb. '71). We spent last weekend in that delightful area and found her article so helpful. Other rockhounds there also had the article and one group was from San Francisco. We came home with all kinds of samples. It was a beautiful weekend and we thank you for it.

THE HARES,
Vista, California.

Bothered By Bikes . . .

We spent the last weekend in the San Bernardino Mountains. We began our trip at Converse Ranger Station on 2N06 and came out at Moon Ridge. As we got up near Moon Ridge, here come the kids on the bikes. They have had no driving training and it is a very dangerous situation. We went on across the Big Bear Area and headed for Holcomb Valley on 2N09. The same problem. Dust and young bike riders. The visibility was bad in places.

Then on 3N14 to Big Pine Flat we passed two different jeep clubs which made a lot of dust, and these young kids just don't know the (whys and where) of cars. We followed two little girls after we left Big Pine Flat on road 3N14 towards Horse Spring. They never looked behind to see if any car was coming. They rode on the wrong side of the road on most of the curves. We stayed about a half mile behind them for safety and all at once we came around a curve and there they were, stopped and talking to some young friends. We had to put on the brakes as it was a curve.

Then on to Horse Spring and camp. A nice camp, but the afternoon of rest was continually interrupted with bikes. The sign in the camp says that bikes must be ridden out of the camp area. But the parents said that their kids were too young and they wanted them to ride near, so around and around the camp.

What can we do as campers to enforce the parents to observe the rules? Do the Rangers ever issue tickets for bikes being ridden by unlicensed riders? Can you suggest anyone that I could write to about unlicensed bike riders? Yes, we have one bike, a Honda that our son sometimes takes along. He is licensed.

MRS. JOE T. HAYNIE,
Pomona, California.

Power Pollution . . .

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to Senator Tunney. Since your fine magazine is interested in ecology, could you put all possible pressure to bear and could you ask your readers to also write to their congressman protesting this environmental outrage? Let's do something!

Dear Senator Tunney:

I consider myself a reasonably hardheaded industrialist, not an "ecology nut," but the article in the April 16th LIFE: "Hello Energy, Goodbye Big Sky," made me boiling mad. It's the story of the pollution of the air of most of our Southwest by a series of power plants being built in the Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico area.

I am not against power plants—am, in fact, a stockholder in one of these companies, but I am for clean air no matter what it may cost. We could have both. I talked to scientist, Dr. Devaney, in Los Alamos, and to Dr. Calvert and other smog experts at U.C.R. It is my understanding that the technology now exists to effectively control both particulates and oxides of nitrogen and sulphur, certainly to a much better extent than is now being done.

This area contains about 40 National Parks and Monuments which I, as a Federal taxpayer and Arizona property owner support, and to which I flee to escape smog-ridden Riverside. The full cost of power should be borne by the power users who benefit, and must leave the air in the condition they found it. It should NOT be borne by the public through the destruction of one of our greatest national assets.

Local legislation or moral or economic considerations of the power companies involved seem ineffective in coping with the problem. I urge you to introduce or support Federal legislation NOW which would uniformly regulate and effectively control this kind of pollution to the maximum extent possible within present technology. Such legislation should include criminal penalties for individual officers and directors who fail to discharge their responsibility under such a law.

The time is now. Please help!

J. NEIL SMITH, JR.,
Riverside, California.

It's McCracken . . .

Re the article *Arizona's Lake Alamo* by Lois Buist, (June '71), there is a small mistake which some may wish to correct.

The McCrackin Mine is really McCracken, discovered by Jackson McCracken, who was one of the members of the famous Walker Party that discovered gold on Lynx Creek, which started Prescott soon after to become the first capital of Arizona. He left the party and remained in the district.

Some postal researchers say his name was spelled McCrackin, but in the claim records of the Yavapai County Court house, his name is as he spelled it, McCracken. All early references and maps and, incidentally, the post office records, spell it his way also.

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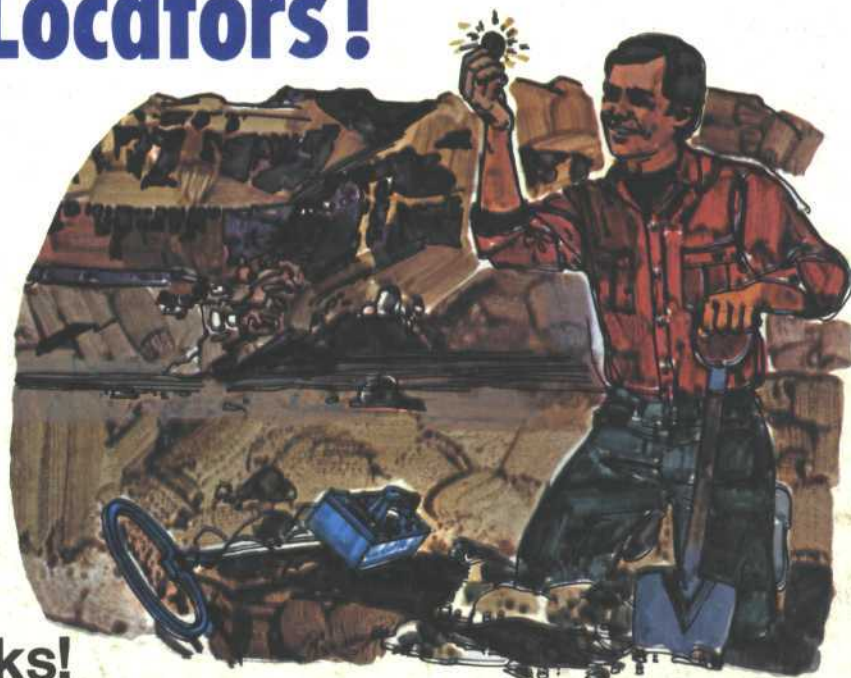
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